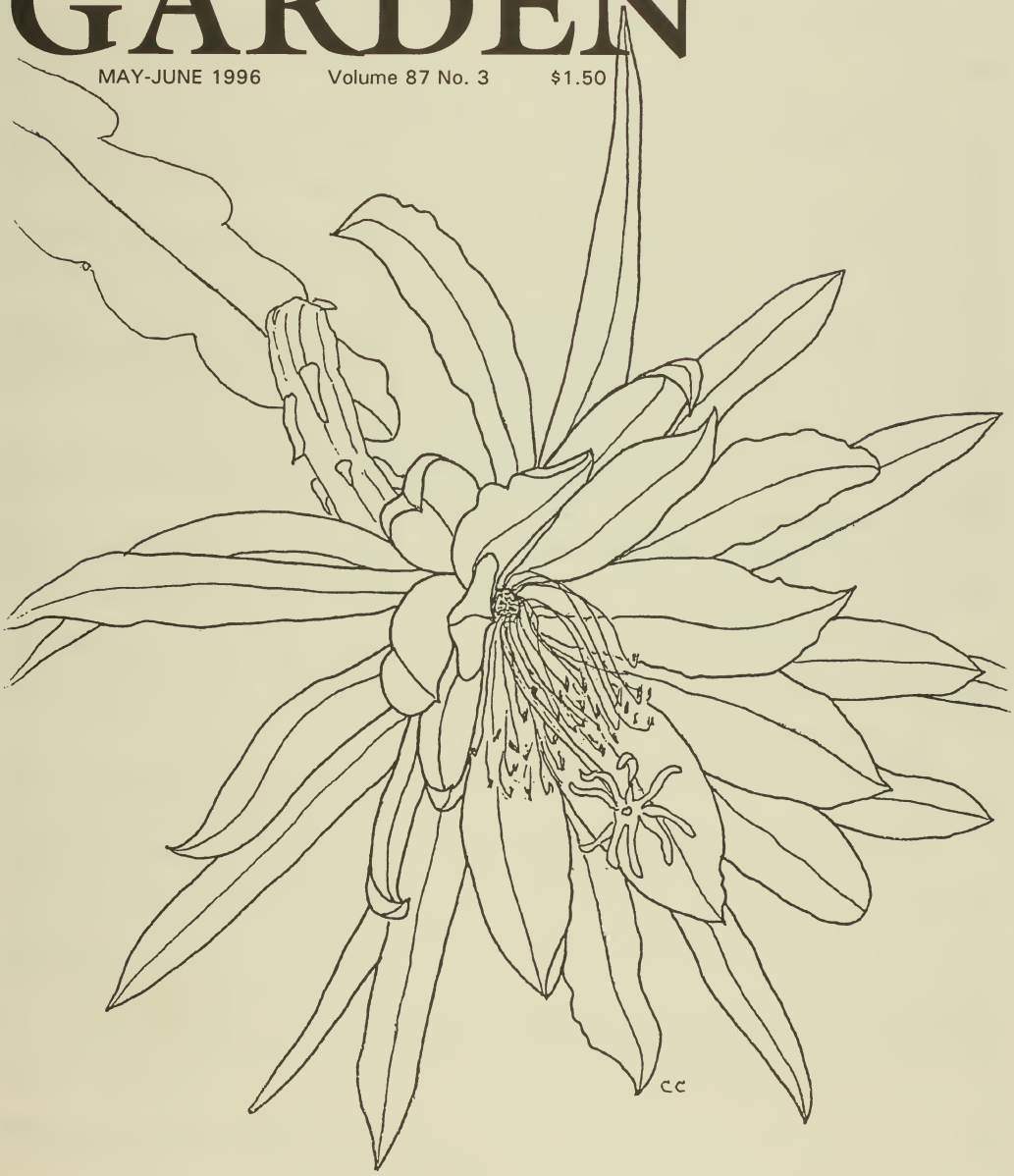
California GARDEN

MAY-JUNE 1996 Volume 87 No. 3 $1.50



HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

MAY 4-5

VISTA GARDEN CLUB 62nd Flower Show & Plant Sale. Brengle Senior Ctr. 1400 Vale Terrace Dr. Vista. Sat.1-5PM; Sun.10AM-4pm.

MAY 4-5

HEARTLAND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY 15th Annual Show. Casa del Prado Balboa Park. Sat 10AM-5PM; Sun. 10AM-4PM.

MAY 4-5

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN FOUNDATION, INC. Rose Show & Sale. 26300 Crenshaw Blvd. Palos Verdes Peninsula. Sat. 12:30-4:30PM; Sun. 10AM-4PM. Fee.

MAY 11

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB Guided Tour of Calif. Nativescapes Bot. Garden at S.D. Wild Animal Park. 10AM. Meet at Garden entrance. Free with admission.

MAY 11

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB Annual Plant Sale. Home Savings Bank, 7777 Girard Ave., La Jolla. Sat. 9AM-2PM. Call 459-2825.

MAY 11

UCI ARBORETUM South African Perennial Sale. Campus & Jamboree Rd., Irvine. Sat. 10AM-3PM. 714/824-5833. Non-members $1.

MAY 11

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY Mini Plant Sale. Courtyard, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Sat. 9AM-4PM.

MAY 11-12

DESCANSO GARDENS 10th Geranium Show & Sale 1418 Descanso Dr., La Canada Flintridge. Show Sat. 11AM-4PM; Sun 9AM-4PM. Sale Sat. and Sun 9AM- 4PM $5. 213/681-2201.

MAY 12

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY 26th Mother's Day Show & Sale. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Sun. 11AM-4PM. Free.

MAY 18

CUYAMACA COLLEGE Urban Forest Field Day. 900 Rancho San Diego Pkway, El Cajon. Sat. 9AM-2PM. Lectures. 670-1980. Free.

MAY 18-19

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY 21st. Annual Show & Sale. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Sat. & Sun. 10AM-5PM. Free.

MAY 19

THE HUNTINGTON 22nd Annual Benefit Plant Sale. 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino. Rare, Exotic & Popular Plants. 9AM-4PM 818/405-2141. Fee.

MAY 19

MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO Flower & Garden Festival. Ortega Hwy & Camino Capistrano. Sun. 8:30AM-5PM. 714/248-2049.

MAY 24-25

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB 22nd. Flower Show. Poway Community Center, 13094 Bowron Rd. Fri. 2-5PM; Sat. 11AM-4PM. Free.

MAY 25

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Second Annual Garden Club Day. 230 Quail Garden Dr., Encinitas. Sat. 10AM-3PM. Call 436-3036. Information & Plant Sale. $3 Gate Fee.

MAY 25-26

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK Annual Show & Sale. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Sat. & Sun. 10AM-4PM. Free.

May 25-26

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN FOUNDATION, INC. Geranium Show & Sale. 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula. Sat. & Sun. 9AM-4PM. $5

MAY 25-26

DESCANSO GARDENS Bromeliad Show and Sale. 1418 Descanso Dr., La Canada Flintridge. Open Daily 9AM-5PM. $5.

JUN 1

DESCANSO GARDENS National Fuchsia Show & Sale. 1418 Descanso Dr., La Canada Flintridge. Open Daily 9AM-5PM. $5.

JUN. 1-2

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN FOUNDATION, INC. Fuchsia Show & Sale. 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula. Sat. 9:30AM-4:30PM; Sun. 10AM-4PM. $5.

JUN. 7

DESCANSO GARDENS Bonsai Show & Sale. 1418 Descanso Dr., La Canada Flintridge. Open Daily 9AM-5PM. $5.

JUN. 8

UCI ARBORETUM Bromeliad Fair. Show, Sale & Lectures. Campus and Jamboree Rd. Irvine. Sat. 10AM-3PM. Non-member $1.

JUN. 15

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY, THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH A Private Garden Tour and plant sale. Noon-4PM. 94 N. Santa Rosa, Ventura. Call 805/648-1530. Free

(continued on page 68)

San Diego Floral Association
INCORPORATED MARCH 1910

Published by
San Diego Floral Association
for 86 Years

PUBLICATION STAFF
EDITOR
Jacqueline Coleman

CALENDAR EDITOR
Jean E. Johns

NOW IS THE TIME EDITOR
Staff Edited

AFFILIATE LISTING EDITOR
Lynn Beyerle

BOOK & VIDEO REVIEW EDITOR
Rosaleen Cox

TOURS EDITOR
Ann Waters

ADVERTISING
Jacqueline Coleman

RENEWALS
Joan Roman

MAILING
Lynn Beyerle

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD
Robert Horwitz
Barbara S. Jones
Betty Newton

Manuscripts are invited. Deadlines are the 20th of January, March, May, July, September, and November. *California Garden* reserves the right to edit any and all submitted material. All manuscripts and illustrations will be handled carefully, but we cannot assume responsibility for their safety. Submissions must be double spaced and/or on a computer disk from IBM or compatible. Enclose self-addressed postpaid envelope if you expect them to be returned to you. *Hortus Third* is the authority for all botanical names used in the magazine. All opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors of *California Garden*. No endorsement of named products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products that are not mentioned.

Send all editorial material and change of address to:

California Garden
San Diego Floral Association
Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park
San Diego CA 92101-1619

California SINCE 1909
GARDEN
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS NO. ISSN 0008-1116

San Diego Floral Association
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
San Diego CA 92101-1619
Monday through Friday
10:00AM to 3:00PM
619/232-5762

VOLUME 87 NUMBER 3

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE HANDS-ON GARDENER

MAY-JUNE 1996

FEATURES

68 *Dendrobium* . . . . . R. Horwitz
69 Kangaroo-Paws . . . . . C. Zinsky
70 Power Growing with *Epiphyllum* . . . . . P. Kloppenborg
73 Soil, the First Element . . . . . R. Horwitz
74 Quest for the Prize . . . . . K. Zerr
75 Alstroemeria in Gardens Today . . . . . B. Newton
77 Point Loma Native Plant Preserve . . . . . M. Wick
78 Nematodes . . . . . B. Jones
78 Sources for Parasitic Nematodes and Other Beneficials . . . . Staff
79 Late Tomato Planting . . . . . B. Jones
84 When It Took Know-How . . . . . R. Sissons
85 Miner's Lettuce . . . . . V. Almond

DEPARTMENTS

66 Horticultural Calendar . . . . . J. Johns
80 Now Is the Time . . . . . Staff Edited
86 Book Reviews . . . . . R. Cox
88 Communications and Addresses . . . . . Editor and Readers
89 Gleanings . . . . . Staff Edited
90 Affiliates . . . . . L. Beyerle

COVER by Constance Cole, (see page 88) of *Epiphyllum* flower. San Diego Epiphyllum Society mini plant sale, May 11, 1996, 9AM-4PM. May 12th, Mother's Day Show and Sale, 11AM-4PM, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park.

Claims and opinions expressed by advertisers do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor and publisher of *California Garden* magazine.

Single copies of the current issue of *California Garden* magazine can be purchased for a donation of $1.50 at the locations listed.
CALIFORNIA ARBORETUM FOUNDATION, INC., 447-8207, 301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia CA 91006
OUCHI NURSERY, 263-6114, 5003 Imperial Ave., San Diego CA 92113
SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION, 232-5762, Casa del Prado, Rm. 105, Balboa Park, San Diego CA 92101
WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, 224-8271, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego CA 92110

FLOWER SHOWS: Show chairman contact *California Garden*, 232-5762 if you want the magazine sold at your show.

CALIFORNIA GARDEN (ISSN 0008-1116) is published Bi-Monthly for donations of $7.00 per year or $13.00 for two years, foreign delivery add $6.00 per year, by San Diego Floral Association, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego CA 92101-1619. © San Diego Floral Association, 1992. All rights reserved. Second Class Postage paid at San Diego CA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CALIFORNIA GARDEN, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego CA 92101-1619.

(HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR cont. from page 66**)**

Jun. 18 to Jul. 7

DEL MAR FAIR Flower & Garden Show Via de la Valle west to Fairgrounds. 9AM-10PM daily. Parking $3. Admission fee.

Weekly

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN Docent Tours. Balboa Park by Organ Pavilion. Tues., Fri., Sat., Sun. 10AM-4PM. Gate donation. Free 3rd. Tuesday.

Every Saturday

OFFSHOOT TOURS One-Hour Plant Walks in Balboa Park. 10AM. Botanical Lath House. Rain or less than 4 people cancels. 1st Sat. History Walk; 2nd Sat. Palm Walk; 3rd Sat. Tree Walk; 4th Sat. Desert Walk; 5th Sat. Tour del Dia.

SAN DIEGO WILD ANIMAL PARK Garden Tours. 1st Sat. Herb Garden Tour, 10AM. 2nd. Water-Wise Garden, 10AM. 3rd. Bonsai House, 11:30AM. 4th Epiphyllum Garden, 10AM. 738-5054. Free with Gate Admission.

Every Tuesday

BALBOA PARK INTERPRETIVE WALKS Ranger guided tours of Botanical History of Park. Meet Balboa Park Visitor Center, Plaza de Panama. 10AM. Call 619/235-1121. Free.

Monthly

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Speaker. Satellite Wagering Facility, Del Mar Racetrack. Mon. 6:30-9PM. Call 630-7307.

THROUGH May 96

PALOMAR DISTRICT DESIGN FORUM Floral Design Programs. 1st Mon. 1-3PM. Rancho Bernardo. Call 749-1920. Fee.

Deadline for submission to HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR for Jul./Aug. issue is May 15. SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION is not responsible for changes that are submitted late by the organizations.

DENDROBIUM

by ROBERT HORWITZ

RECENTLY MY SON MOVED to Honolulu to work for the newspapers in that city. Almost immediately he fell in love with the profusion of orchids that are growing there. He consulted a nursery to see what kind of orchids he could send to me here in San Diego that would flourish and be easy to care for. He sent by Air Express seven *Dendrobium* plants, all nicely potted and with flower stalks, bud and leaves intact.

Researching the growing habits of the *Dendrobium* genus provided me with sufficient information to keep them growing and flourishing very well. Originally they came from Asia and growers around the world have cultured them so that they can grow fairly well if the right conditions are available to them. They are petite plant with small leathery green leaves that grow out from a main fleshy stem. The blossoms grow on a stem that emerges from the center of the leaf stem with buds first then blossoms alternating along that stem. Colors range from white to white with colored centers to pink and even into the purple tones.

The culture is fairly simple. They have fleshy roots that will grow in pots nicely as long as the root medium is made up of coarse material such as fir bark, commercial orchid material, or even small pebbles mixed with fir bark. Do not use potting soil or dirt. Water when the potting medium gets dry, normally every third day, and fertilize gently with a liquid fertilizer (20-20-20) twice a month. They can take morning and afternoon sun, but not noon sun. If you bring them into the house so that you can admire the plant during the blooming season, keep them near a window that lets in a lot of light and even direct sun for a few hours during the day.

They can withstand temperatures that go down to the fifties and even ninety degrees will not hurt them. They like a fairly high humidity, so watch them and take precautions during Santa Anas. Let them get really root-bound before repotting.

After their blooming season is over, you will see new leaf growth appear at the base of one or more of the fleshy leaf stems. The growth is slow, so do not be in a hurry. This new growth normally produces flowers in about a year.□

Robert Horwitz is a retired aerospace engineer. He is a regular contributor to local publications, he grows the plants he describes in Point Loma.

Photograph of *Dendrobium* Yukidarma 'King' x *Dendrobium* Golden Blossom 'Sunset' at Nurseryland Garden Center on West Morena Boulevard, San Diego.

KANGAROO-PAWS: A GREAT ADDITION FROM DOWN UNDER

by CATHERINE ZINSKY

LIVING IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA it's impossible to ignore the influx of Australian plants. Most notable is the popular and populous *Eucalyptus*, of which numerous varieties abound. Less familiar, but gaining in popularity is an outstanding perennial, *Anigozanthos*, more commonly called kangaroo-paw.

Anigozanthos belongs to the bloodwort family, Haemodoraceae. It is a family of monocots. (Monocots, short for monocotyledons, are plants that as seedlings have only a single cotyledon [seed leaf]. Grasses and corn are two examples of monocots.) It takes no leap of the imagination to surmise that the leaves of kangaroo-paw are hence grasslike, though *Anigozanthos* leaves are tough and rigid, generally three feet in height, and fanned. They are also evergreen, so that when out of flower the plant is still a handsome addition to the perennial bed.

The flowers of this unique perennial emerge from long spikes ranging from 3-6 feet. Now that the hybridizers are working their magic with *Anigozanthos*, the color range is more variable, but generally the flowers come in shades of pink, red, purple, green and yellow.

The flowers themselves are tubular and flared at the tips, and so resemble the paw of a kangaroo that they duly acquired the common call name of kangaroo-paw. Each panicle is loaded with individual flowers that blossom in spring and continue through fall.

As a cut flower *Anigozanthos* is superb. The stems are sturdy and the flowers are long lasting, while their uniqueness adds a certain flare to any arrangement.

A. flavidus is in my experience the heaviest flower producer. It is also the tallest, with flower spikes reaching as high as eight feet. If a shorter specimen is what your garden cries for, I recommend A. flavidus 'Joey', a dwarf of approximately two feet.

A. manglesii is hard to find, but well worth the search. It spikes to 3 feet and these are covered with red hairs. The flowers themselves are a vibrant green with red at the base, and are very woolly — a real charmer.

Kangaroo-paws are greatly appreciated by hummingbirds, as the perianth tube of the flowers is highly adapted for their pleasure. No doubt the hummingbirds assist in pollination, though I personally have never had my *Anigozanthos* set seed. Still, I deadhead religiously, an activity that encourages continual bloom.

Anigozanthos can be propagated from seed. Division is the more common practice—but be prepared: *Anigozanthos* has an extremely thick rootstock and will require a sturdy shovel and spine to separate it.

Snails are especially fond of hiding out in the grasslike foliage. This has its pros and cons: the negative side is that the snails are always there; the positive side is that you always know where to find the little blighters.

Cultivation of kangaroo-paw is relatively easy. Full sun is best; good drainage is mandatory. They do enjoy average watering. They also prefer an acid soil, so periodic fertilizings are recommended to compensate for our alkaline conditions here. *Anigozanthos* is half-hardy, tolerating some light frost to as low as 25°F.

And that's about all they need — except, yes, do bait for snails. Happy spring and happy gardening. . . .. □

Catherine Zinsky is a free-lance writer for garden and canine publications. Photos of A. flavidus by author.

Catherine will be having an OPEN GARDEN on May 11th, Sat., 9AM-3PM—and May 12th, Sun. 11AM-3PM, at 309 Estornino Lane, El Cajon. Private showing can be arranged for small groups through June. Call 447-4668.

POWER GROWING WITH *EPIPHYLLUM*©

by PAUL N. KLOPPENBORG

"POWER GROWING" IS A philosophy of taking one or more one-year-old plants and making them into one large plant via cutting, manipulating, and replanting. If having large, beautiful plants that produce lots of blooms sounds good to you (and you're in no big hurry), then "power growing" may be what you're looking for!

This is a familiar sight to anyone who grows plants of the genus *Epiphyllum* (Figure 1). You buy a cutting, plant it, and in one year you have one of these. Epis have a tremendous growth rate, but in this stage, they have a hard time standing up. If you're dying to see it bloom, leave it be. If you're willing to wait a year or two more, you'll be amazed at the number of blooms you'll get. In four or five years, you'll have a full, gorgeous plant that looks at least ten years old.

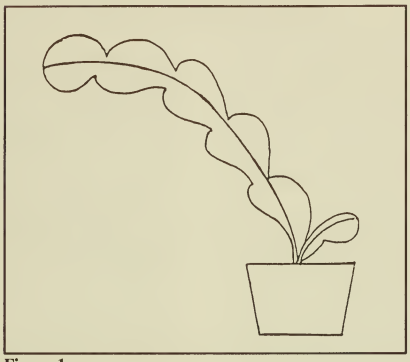


Figure 1

What's needed?

1) a good pair of garden clippers
2) a lighter (to sterilize the clippers)
3) potting soil
4) perlite
5) bone meal
6) Root Tone
7) a small brush
8) some epis (two or more 1-year-old plants)
9) an equal number of pots

. . .And you're set!

First, use the lighter to sterilize the clippers. Cut the first plant according to the illustration and wedge the cut pieces. (Discard the small triangular piece) (Figure 2). Remember—each indentation in the leaves is a growth node. The fewer nodes you cut off, the more potential growth you preserve. When the first plant is finished, again sterilize the clippers with the lighter and cut the second plant in the same manner. Once the plants are cut and wedged, apply Root Tone to all areas that were cut. This will prevent disease, seal the exposed areas, and help the plants to root better. Let the cuttings sit in a cool, dry place for about ten to fourteen days and continue regular care for the main potted plants.

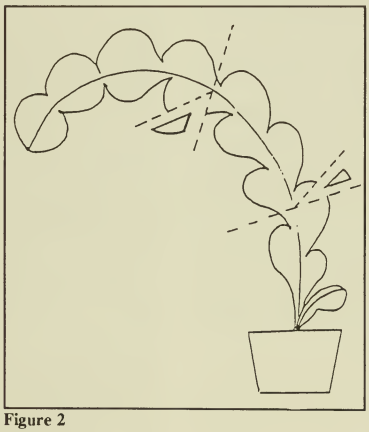


Figure 2

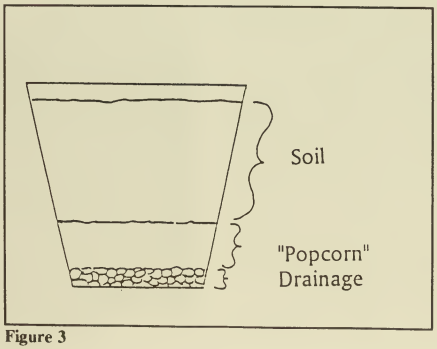


Figure 3

Getting dirty

For my planting medium, I use potting soil, perlite, and bone meal. Every grower has a different "formula for success" and this is mine. This secret was given to me by my friend and teacher, Mr. Fred Echeverria. Once I started using it, my plants showed dramatic improvements. The key ingredient is bone meal. It's a "slow release" growth fertilizer so you don't have to worry about over-fertilizing or forgetting to fertilize. The best thing is that it lasts for about two years; then you just sprinkle and work a fresh supply into the soil, and you're set for another two years. Because it's slow release, you can still use spray fertilizer (like Superbloom) during bud producing months without ill effects.

Since ratios are often hard to convert for those who use both large and small amounts of potting mix, the best thing is to make a large batch in a wheelbarrow and use it as you need it. If you don't want to tie up your wheelbarrow, you can always pour it back into your potting soil bag when you're finished.

Fred's Magic Soil Formula

1) 1 cubic ft. bag of potting soil
2) 3 quart bag of perlite

Epiphyllum 'Farewell'

3. 2 cups of bone meal

Mix well, try to avoid breathing the dust from the bone meal. Then use as needed.

Extra deep pots can use far more soil than is necessary. In this case, above the rock level (used for drainage), I place a layer of packing styrofoam "popcorn", then place the soil above that (Figure 3).

Planting

Now you're ready to plant! Get a five gallon pot, your two one-year-old plants, the cuttings that were removed from these "mother" plants (that were stored for ten to fourteen days), your potting soil, and you're ready to go.

Since I build the entire plant around the "mother" plants, I place them accordingly, making sure not to put them too close together, and facing their growth OUT rather than toward the center of the pot (Figure 4). Once these are arranged the way you want them, add in the cuttings, again directing the natural bend of the leaves away from each other.

Water very lightly (about two cups) and don't water again for one week. Then water with three cups of water, four cups, six cups, etc., each week, gradually increasing the weekly amount. In a month or two, you can water as you normally do. The plants should be well adjusted by then.

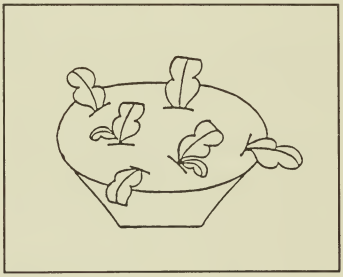


Figure 4

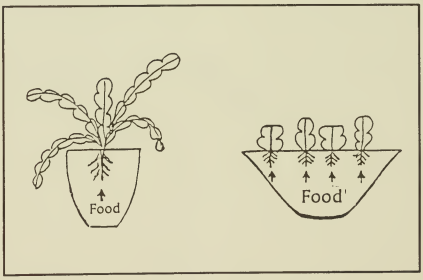


Figure 5

I keep young plants out of direct sunlight; this way they can grow without fear of burning. After about one year, there probably will be some long, lanky leaves dragging on the ground. I usually cut these back (about six inches), wedge the piece I cut off, apply Root Tone to both exposed areas, store the ends in a cool, dry area for ten to fourteen days, then plant the new cuttings back in the pot. By adding more cuttings to the original pot, you increase the density of future growth and bring more color to what exists now.

How it works

A one year plant usually has one long branch and often a smaller one growing from below the soil level, or a low node. As time goes on, the main leaf grows longer, usually producing a few leaves from its growth nodes. The lower leaf will get larger and also may produce new side leaves.

The important thing to note is—all

Epiphyllum 'Raspberry Ribbon', Photographs by Patricia E. Neal

this growth is being supported by only one root system! The plant has to divide the nutrients it receives from the soil to all parts of the plant and so essentially the whole plant suffers.

"Power growing" takes a different approach! Instead of allowing all the nutrients to go toward leaf production, "power growing" stunts this practice from the start. Instead, the roots are where the nutrients are kept and it's root growth that is encouraged from the beginning of the plant's life (Figure 5).

What you have now are six plants with increased root size, feeding a future giant! Now you can let the plant grow to its heart's content. If some leaves get too lanky, you can cut these, apply Root Tone, store for ten to fourteen days and put them in an open space in the pot.

Now you have a good idea—how the giant grows!

The first year will be filled with new young growth, and as you keep putting more and more into the original pot, you'll start to see the magic happen. In the second year, your cuttings will mature; they'll be stronger now, and you can give them more sunlight, for it's sunlight and Superbloom that produce the blooms. One word of caution here concerning blooms—never pull a bloom off from a leaf! This may cause damage to the node. Instead, cut the stem of the flower close to the leaf and let the stub dry and fall off by itself. A healthy node can bloom again or produce a new leaf.

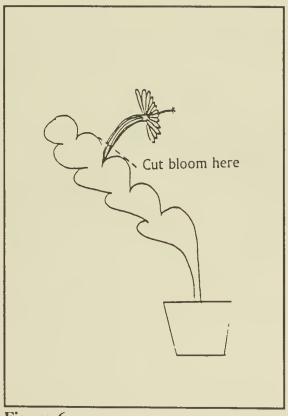


Figure 6

In the winter, I try to give my plants as much sun as they can take without burning them. As the sun gets hotter, I watch them closely, making sure that I move them to shade when I see the leaves start to yellow. As the cooler weather returns, I'll move them back out again. If you have a greenhouse, you won't have to worry about this.

I start using Superbloom in September, once very two weeks, and continue until the blooming cycle is finished. After they've "bloomed out," they're all worn out so don't water as much and hold the fertilizer. After a few months, you'll see new growth start to appear, then you can again water as usual. And, even supply it with some growth fertilizer, for it has definitely earned it! Enjoy your nice, beautiful plants, they will bring you much joy and will undoubtedly impress all who gaze upon their beauty! □

Text and illustrations copyright 1995 by Paul N. Kloppenborg, who lives in La Mesa and is a member of the San Diego Epiphyllum Society.

***Epiphyllum* Show and Sale, see page 66**

SOIL, THE FIRST ELEMENT

BY ROBERT HORWITZ

PLANTS NEED SOIL, air, water, heat, and light in order to grow. Implicit in soil is nutrition, although that is not the source of all the nutrition. Good soil means good plant growth, and in Southern California good soil is not easily had at the delving of a shovel. New home gardens are in trouble right at the start when it comes to soil ready for planting, as the lot preparation that was done in order to build the house probably had done much damage to the dirt and had left a number of materials and chemicals that are not good for a garden. Chances are that the land was bulldozed and dug with most of the topsoil removed and that topsoil probably wasn't much good anyway.

The inorganic material that goes into the makeup of a soil is derived from the decomposition of rocks into small particles of many sizes from sand and gravel to fine loam to silt and clay. This is done by the process of erosion due to weather, temperature changes, water action, and physical grinding. Some inorganic nutrients are derived from the atmosphere, mainly gases and water in the form of rain. Contained in these decomposed rocks are minerals, both soluble and insoluble, needed for plant physiology.

Organic material, which good plant soil needs, consists of decaying plants and animal detritus. The good soil for planting should contain at least ten percent organic material, which constantly needs to be replaced as it decomposes, is used, and washes away. Grabbing a handful of dry dirt will tell you a lot about its makeup. If it is very dry and dusty with a light tan or a brown color, chances are that it is very deficient in organic elements and their textures. Without sufficient organic material, coarse soils will not cohere. They will not have the capability to hold much water or necessary gases, such as carbon dioxide and oxygen. These are absorbed by the plant roots and given off by the leaves during photosynthesis. Organics also provide food for the millions of microscopic organisms that go into making up a viable soil.

The ideal soil is loamy, containing 10 to 15% clay, 40%, or so, of silt, 30% sand, and the remaining ingredients made up of organic material. All of this with a neutral pH will make up a good garden soil. This is what you want to attain to undo all the bad things that had gone on with your dirt during the home construction process. You can provide this good soil mix by taking the easy way out and skimming off all the construction soil and replacing it with sufficient amounts purchased from your friendly soil merchant. Or you can get the individual ingredients and mix them yourself. Take a good look at the topsoil that you buy, as a lot of it is sand and sawdust and is not the proper mix at all. Integrate good soil into your garden to start with. You may find it necessary to make pockets of special soils for special plants and planting situations besides the general integration of the good soil mix.

After working with good loam for a bit, you will find that when you pick up a handful, it sticks together slightly, has lots of air space, which is needed for the gases and water, and has the consistency that will allow growing roots to penetrate easily. It should have the quality that will contain enough water, but not too much. This characteristic keeps the soil from holding too much water, which could cause root damage due to rot. All this adds up to the adage that there is no substitute for the first important element of a garden—good soil. □

Robert Horwitz is a retired aerospace engineer. He is a regular contributor to local publications, describing the plants that he grows in Point Loma.

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AT CAJON VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

by MARY WENDT

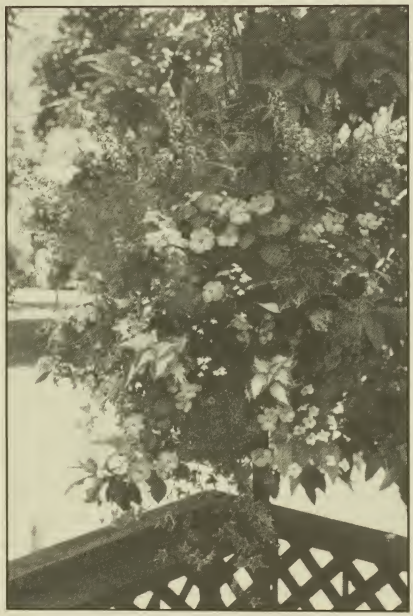
Over the past three years, students at Cajon Valley Middle School have built, planted, and maintained an organic garden. Besides science, the gardening projects are integrated with academic subjects—math, social studies, English. With grant funds from the San Diego Water Authority, the students are growing flowers, vegetables, and herbs that they sell for additional funds to continue their projects. They are growing indigenous varieties of oak, sage, and lilacs, too. The students undertook the restoration of a watershed that had been destroyed by a road widening project in El Cajon. This included a detailed landscape design and subsequent planting of 102 saplings native to the area. Don Hohimer is the teacher.

The special education program, administered by the Cajon Valley School District in conjunction with the San Diego Center for Children, has recently received a Youth Garden Grant from the National Gardening Association (NGA), based in Burlington, Vermont. They were selected from 1,400 programs nationwide and will receive more than $500 worth of tools, seeds, and garden products from the garden industry. NGA stated, "They were selected based upon a clear demonstration of strong leadership, educational and environmental programming, community support, and long term sustainability, which are critical elements for successful programs." □

QUEST FOR THE PRIZE

by KERRY ZERR

LAST JUNE, I SAW an article in the *San Diego Union-Tribune* announcing a hanging basket competition open to all U.S. home gardeners, sponsored by Thompson & Morgan Seed Co. **The prize was $100 in T&M merchandise every year for life.** I probably wouldn't make the effort (or spend the money!) for a blue ribbon at Del Mar, nice as that might be. I considered though that this prize, if I lived as long as my grandmother, would total up to $5,000. Shortly thereafter, I was off to the nurseries in search of inspiration! I had only 2½ months until the deadline, so I quickly decided that growing from seed was out of the question. Whatever I put together would have to come from six-packs or 4″ pots, nearing bloom.



I considered various color combinations, themes (all begonias), and even a one-color basket. As I enjoy combining colors and textures with flowers to create compositions for my terrace containers, this process of "intuitive design" is familiar to me. I just look for one particular plant or idea that inspires me, and this time, I found it in a one-gallon *Angelonia* 'Blue Pacific' that was healthy, multi-branched, and weeks from bloom. The *Angelonia* is a gorgeous perennial from Brazil with blue-violet and white "monkey flowers" on arching stems that, to me, recalls a small buddleia. This would be the "star" of the basket. When I put a blossom of *Impatiens* 'Super Elfin Coral' next to an *Angelonia* in bloom, I knew that I had my color scheme. They complemented each other perfectly in color, hue, and intensity.

I chose an 18″ wire basket, having decided to use the standard moss and potting soil process. I mixed Supersoil potting mix, some Broadleaf P-4 to aid in moisture retention, extra perlite for grit, and a sprinkle of Osmocote time release fertilizer for each plant. On a sunny Sunday, I spent six hours planting, starting with the bottom, working my way around and to the top, letting intuition and experience guide me in plant placement. Two techniques I used were very helpful to me in achieving a full, colorful effect. (1) I washed the soil from the roots of plants that would tolerate root disturbance with a warm water B_{12} solution. (2) I wrapped the roots of each plant in plastic before poking it through the moss, then removed the plastic and gently covered the roots with potting soil. I am indebted to Mary Higgins and Malcolm Hillier, respectively, for these techniques; as they allowed me to overplant the basket with thirty-six small plants without any damage or distress.

When done, the basket was full with:

1 one gallon *Angelonia* 'Blue Pacific'
6 *Lobelia* 'White Palace'
6 *Brachycome* 'Blue Star'
6 *Impatiens* 'Super Elfin Coral'
3 *Petunia* 'Blue Dreams'
6 *Nierembergia* 'Mont Blanc'
6 *Coleus* 'Pastel' and 'Candidum'
3 4″ variegated ivy

The effect at the end of my planting session was very disappointing, as a newly assembled hanging basket looks like a porcupine on a bad-hair day. Things stick out this way and that, needing time to relax, grow, and cascade nicely. I resolved to be patient and pray. After three weeks of watering, grooming, and turning almost daily, I began to add ¼ strength Super-Bloom to the water to aid flower production. Three weeks later, the basket resembled the riot of flowers that I had envisioned when I began putting it together. Other than a mild attack of powdery mildew on the petunias, everything was healthy and colorful!

I had the basket in a position that received four hours of filtered sun, then bright shade daily. The blossoms kept coming, and staying, with no hot sun to scorch.

As my passion is flowers, not photography, I had my good friend, Ann Trudell, take the picture to send in to T&M. She captured the basket in full glory, the *Angelonia* and ivy spilling over the top, petunias and impatiens dancing in the wind. I was satisfied that I had done my

(continued on page 93)

ALSTROEMERIA IN GARDENS TODAY: RECENT HISTORY AND CARE

by BETTY NEWTON

ALSTROEMERIA IS A GENUS OF perennial flowers native to South America. Although *Hortus Third* lists only eleven species, or different kinds, there are probably one hundred. Four of these are part of our recent history, three species are in current gardens.

With clusters of flowers—most these days are three-inch, upright, flaring trumpets in pale to rich colors with delicate striping—a single stem of alstroemeria is elegant in a narrow vase. As a cut flower, alstroemerias are long lasting—sometimes for over two weeks.

The alstroemerias we grow in the garden give both cut flowers and showy color. We want to know how to grow them as well as possible. Let's look at these flowers, sometimes called Chilean or Peruvian lilies, in local gardens.

Alstroemeria magenta, species from Chile

We won't see much *Alstroemeria aurea* (previously *A. aurantiaca*) in gardens here though that kind has been available for about one hundred years. It comes from southern Chile and they are hardy to cold and prefer cool weather. You can see them in northern California and the Central Valley. They are happy in northern latitudes, say Seattle and Munich.

Garden History

One alstroemeria that has been grown in some Southern California gardens for many years is the three- to four-foot tall species with the very narrow red, green-tipped flowers *Alstroemeria psittacina* (the "p" is not sounded). [*Alstroemeria psittacina species* (wild) ↓]

Some call it *A. pulchella*. Growing in shade on the coast or sun inland, it flings seeds (you can hear them) several feet away, where new plants then sprout.

A. ligtu has been popular. Park Seed of Greenwood, South Carolina offers seed of *A. ligtu* and 'Dr. Salter', a subspecies of that. Following the introduction of heavier-textured, superior hybrids here, Nurseryland Garden Centers would occasionally advertise roots of the ligtu kinds—and sell out in hours.

Fred Meyer, esteemed hybridizer (who lives with his family a few miles north of Escondido) says there is a big bed of the ligtus at University of California at Berkeley and that Orputt Nursery, Santa Barbara, distributed them through the 1940s and 1950s so they were widely disseminated. Many families have this alstroemeria.

The ligtus have very light-textured petals with 2½″ long tubular flowers that flare about 1¼″ wide. The delicate flowering stems disappear in June as plants die to the ground. Green regrowth sprouts up in December. *A. Ligtu*, I'm told, shows the whole color range: pink, red, orange, white, etc., but I see and have grown only coral. These develop a lovely range of coral to pale pink colors as seeds scatter and the patch spreads.

All alstroemerias are easy to grow from seed. >

Lovely, subtle shading on *Alstroemeria* hybrid

These older, more delicate-appearing *A. ligtu* look fine growing in a half-barrel, where they may be held upright and together with bamboo stakes and black carpet thread.

In the 1980s, plant-aware people saw wonderfully vivid red, yellow, purple and pink alstroemerias sold by florists. These plants are leased from Dutch hybridizers and are usually grown under plastic cloth by local cut-flower growers.

The plants are not owned by the growers and must be destroyed at the end of the contract period—7 years. They grow with support (rather like sweet peas) and they easily reach 5 feet. Growers feed these plants abundant trace elements (iron, magnesium, copper, and zinc) along with the expected nitrogen.

Home gardeners were instantly covetous of the new bright, heavy-textured flowers. We heard they were difficult to grow, but we couldn't be sure because no one could get their hands on any. (I knew one retired farm advisor however who had some doing fine outside.) University research (done in Pennsylvania for the trade) said alstroemeria plants do best in cool weather and want deep soil.

Then about fifteen years ago Fred Meyer (who was then working with the equipment of University of California Irvine Arboretum) traveled to Brazil, where he collected two evergreen species, and to Chile where he collected two other species (these deciduous) that could contribute color and size. Meyer combined these four species to create a nearly-evergreen alstroemeria. Petals were as heavy and trumpets as wide as the Dutch hybrids. His work was our very good fortune.

The first colors were pink and lavender pink. (Meyer was and remains under contract to the Japanese company, Di/iachi Seed Company. Flowers bring much higher prices in Japan and Europe where every visit or special occasion calls for a bouquet.) To Meyer, these alstroemerias were not perfect with their slight striping on three petals, but they were a big step forward. Sharing, he gave these early hybrids to friends at San Marcos Growers in Santa Barbara, Paul Hutchinson of Escondido's Tropic World, Linda and Bill Teague of Del Mar and the plant sale at Huntington Botanic Garden in San Marino.

Time has passed; deeper colors among seedlings have been selected. Plantings of the first crosses are now twelve-foot wide thickets. Very showy. And their price is lower—down from the $26 a gallon some nurseries charged at first. Now, some gardeners will assure you, "This plant is a weed." It does persist and spread. You may wish to confine it.

Culture

Alstroemerias have slender, tuberous roots, roughly a quarter-inch wide. In these thick roots they store carbohydrates and water and can therefore tolerate some drought and neglect. They don't die if neglected but don't grow vigorously. (continued on page 92)

All-striped *Alstromeria* hybrid

POINT LOMA NATIVE PLANT PRESERVE

by MARY WICK

AS YOU DRIVE SOUTH on Nimitz Boulevard, between the intersections of West Point Loma Avenue and Chatsworth Boulevard, you will see on the west a small pocket of native plants on a piece of land tucked between apartments and condos—the Point Loma Native Plant Preserve.

For the past eight to ten years the Point Loma Garden club, with the blessings of the San Diego Park and Recreation Department, has been in the process of making this section of Collier Park West into the Native Plant Preserve. With the continued physical support of a few dedicated club members and the financial support of the club itself, the preserve is gradually returning to its natural state—Point Loma as it was when Cabrillo first sailed into the bay.

A walk through the preserve at any time of the year will be a pleasurable experience, but during the spring months the most color appears. After the rains the open spaces are carpeted with green, which turns brown during the summer and fall. Usually in March and April there is a spectacular showing of Matilija poppies (*Romneya coulteri)* along with various sages including *Salvia clevelandii* with blooms in a beautiful shade of blue. Orangy-red bush monkey flowers (*Mimulus puniceus)* and blue eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum),* with tiny yellow centered blue flowers, are ranging everywhere. The flowers of St. Catherine's lace (*Eriogonum giganteum)* will turn from a lovely white froth covering the whole bush to shades of coral and sienna as the flowers dry. This makes a lovely contrast with the gray foliage. If you blink, you will miss the beautiful crown of white blossoms on the warty stem ceanothus (*Ceanothus verrucosus),* but the blue ceanothus, commonly referred to as wild lilac, will last about a month.

You may catch an opunti or two in bloom in the cactus-succulent area. Wander into another area where you will see bush poppies (*Dendromecon rigida*) and flannel bush (*Fremontodendron californicum*). These two species bloom for most of the year but are more spectacular during the late spring and into summer. Some of the medium to large shrubs found in the preserve are Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia),* Catalina cherry (*Prunus lyonii),* and lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia)* that has fairly insignificant blooms. Yerba santa (*Eriodictyon crassifolium)* is quite interesting with its gray fuzzy leaves and pale blue flowers. Fuchsia-flower gooseberry (*Ribes speciosum),* with bright red flowers, and laurel sumac (*Rhus laurina),* with cream colored puffs over the whole bush, are a sight to behold. In season, California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) turn the hillside to gold.

To reach the preserve, if going south on Nimitz Blvd., take the Famosa Blvd. offramp; turn right at the signal to Voltaire; go one block on Voltaire and turn right on Mendocino, which dead-ends at Greene Street. A walk-in entry is at that corner on the west side of Collier Park West. □

MARY WICK is a member of Point Loma Garden Club and is the advisor for the Native Plant Preserve.

Bushes of Matilija poppies enhance the hillside. Photograph by the author

NEMATODES

by BARBARA S. JONES

THIS WORD PUTS FEAR into the hearts of gardeners. But nematodes are not all bad. The "good guys" are called parasitic nematodes.

A nematode is a minute, whitish, almost transparent, thread or worm-like creature that is usually invisible to the eye. The ones we fear live internally or feed on the outside of roots, stems, leaves, flowers. They are hard to detect because other soil diseases can have the same effects on plants—stunted growth, yellowing leaves, etc. If you take a diseased plant to your nurseryman to identify the problem, be sure it's well enclosed in a clear, sealed, plastic bag. Don't spread them (or any other disease). As a rule nematodes are dispersed on tools, in irrigation water, on the soles of shoes, and by the importing of infested plants or soil. The cures will vary dependent upon the type you have.

PARASITIC NEMATODES

Steinernema feltiae (*Neoaplectana arpocapsae*) and *Heterorhabditis heliothidis* are nematodes that possess the desirable attributes of an ideal biological control agent. They are safe for plants, earthworms, and warm-blooded animals including humans; they are easy to mass-produce; and when applied, actively seek out susceptible hosts and kill them within twenty-four to forty-eight hours. They do not kill their host insects but a lethal bacteria inside their bodies is released once the nematode enters the insect host.

The beneficial nematodes occur naturally in soil all over the world but because their tiny bodies dry out quickly in air and are destroyed by ultraviolet light, most of them are primarily undergrounders. They can be purchased from mail order companies and some nurseries. Dormant nematodes are shipped in a moist medium that is mixed with water for application. Once they are mixed with water, they should be applied within two hours. It is best to use them quickly but they can be kept in the sealed shipping container in the refrigerator for up to two weeks until ready for use. (Be sure that you do not let the container stay in the sun or get too warm.)

Applying the nematodes to the garden can be tricky. Experts recommend that the soil should be loose and bare of mulch or thatch. The soil must be moist. It should be well watered before and after application. Apply the nematodes with a watering can. It is helpful to scratch out a shallow trench around an established plant, apply the mixture, and place the soil back in position. Dry soil will kill the nematodes, so water well at least three days following application. Temperature is important—between 60° and 85°F. Evening applications are best. Do not apply commercial fertilizers at this time. Fertilizers high in ammonia (i.e., ammonium nitrate) will kill nematodes. Organic fertilizers are all right. It may take more than one application to do the job if you have a bad infestation of pests. Nematodes are very active for the first two weeks and then gradually dwindle in numbers. Some pests they love are armyworms, corn earworms, cutworms, peach tree borer, sod web worm, white grubs (larva stage of Japanese beetles, etc.), carrot weevil, citrus weevil, onion maggot, sweet potato weevil. The amount of nematodes to apply for each pest is clearly indicated on the container. □

Barbara Jones majored in Botany at SDSU and has gardened in San Diego for over 50 years.

SOURCES FOR PARASITIC NEMATODES AND OTHER BENEFICIALS

In an article, "Some Biological Control Agents Commercially Available in California," issued by UC Cooperative Extension, it mentions some insects, in addition to those above, that can be attacked by parasitic nematodes. These pests are: scarab, carpenterworm, navel orangeworm, and artichoke plume moth.

Beneficial nematodes can be purchased from:
BR Supply Company, P. O. Box 845, Exeter, CA 93221 209/732-3422
Harmony Farm Supply, P. O. Box 451, Graton, CA 95444 707/823-9125
Nematec, P. O. Box 758, San Leandro, CA 94577
Peaceful Valley Farm Supply, P. O. Box 2209, Grass Valley, CA 95945 916/272-4769

Information on suppliers of additional beneficials can be found in "Suppliers of Beneficial Organisms in North America." This can be ordered from the Department of Pesticide Regulation, Environmental Monitoring and Pest Management Branch,
Attn: Beneficial Organisms Booklet, 1020 "N" Street, Room 161, Sacramento, CA 95814-5624 or call 916/324-4100. □

Staff

LATE TOMATO PLANTING

by BARBARA S. JONES

NO, IT'S NOT MARCH! But, it's still tomato-planting season. Tomatoes are the most popular home garden plant —not only in San Diego but throughout the whole country. All guides to growing tomatoes explain that one must wait until there is no danger of frost to plant. In most parts of San Diego it's a rare year when we have frost. Our planting guide is when the ground starts to warm and the days lengthen. This is usually sometime in March near the coast and April further inland. Near the coast, in a sheltered location, local home gardeners start putting transplants into the ground on the first. Best rule-of-thumb is to wait until the 15th. But if you have not gotten around to planting yet, there is still time. For fall tomatoes you can plant in July.

If you are a new gardener, here are some guidelines: Tomatoes need at least eight hours of sunshine, good drainage, food, and regular watering. (Watering will depend upon the season.) Many of the home gardeners I know use raised beds for their vegetable growing because they are easier to work in, don't have drainage problems, don't use as much water, and they don't get so much dirt on their shoes. I made my raised bed about 20 years ago using ten foot lengths of 2″ x 12″ redwood planks. The bed is 5′ x 10′. On several occasions we have completely renewed the soil when we felt that some plant disease has become a problem. Some gardeners have made beds using inexpensive eight inch cement bricks available at every home supply store. Porch gardeners use big tubs.

FOOD

I'm a San Diegan and a firm believer that steer manure is the best fertilizer. (Research has shown that the use of organic fertilizers makes plants more disease resistant.) It should be dug into the soil several weeks before planting as it will get hot when it is watered and starts to break down. The recommended amount is 50 pounds to every 100 square foot of garden. Most bags are sold in cubic feet—a 2 cubic foot bag weighs about 56 pounds. The commercial bagged manures are sterilized and don't smell like the fresh variety. When I was a child, we walked around the whole month of January saying "Phew!". Every school lawn, every park, every home garden had at least 2″ of fresh manure spread evenly over it. If there was no hard rains, it was watered. Trucks from dairies would deliver fresh manure by the truckload, or the gardener could go and get his own load. Parents made their children take their shoes off at the door for cleaning. But, we surely had great lawns and gardens!

If you use chemical fertilizers, get one with a high phosphorus level, a 6-20-20 or a 5-10-5. Spread it over the soil at the rate recommended, and dig it into the soil a shovel depth. (That is about 8".) This does not have to be done so far in advance. I know gardeners who do it the day they plant, but digging and planting on the same day is tiring, so most people dig and water a few days before putting the plants in.

When the plants set fruit, a monthly application of a high nitrogen fertilizer will help. (Nitrogen is the first number.) Be sure to water the plant well after the application. Some long time gardeners use beef tea. (Beef tea is made by soaking a small amount of steer manure in water for a few days.) One lady I know who now does only pot gardening, pours all the drippings from the meat packages into the water she uses for watering her plants. She has gorgeous plants. We apply twice as much manure as recommended to our raised bed before we plant and do not do any supplemental feeding.

WATER

As soon as the seedlings are placed in the ground they should be drenched. Use lots of water—make sure the soil is wet at least a shovel depth down. For the first month, lightly water every time you notice the soil surface is dry—every four to five days. After the plants are established a good deep watering is needed every week or ten days.

CARE

Some fruits are pruned to increase productivity or size of

(Continued on page 93)

Now is the Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES, UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, AND *CALIFORNIA GARDEN* STAFF

AFRICAN VIOLETS
Helen La Gamma

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER only when soil is dry.

TO REPOT only if necessary.

TO TAKE the time to groom your violets by removing the lower row of leaves and all flower stems.

TO SEE that you have proper soil: light, porous and with good drainage.

TO PUT all plants on wicks using a 3½ to 4 cup reservoir.

TO HAVE 12 to 14 hours of light daily.

TO HAVE proper spacing—provide room for good air circulation.

TO USE good fertilizer according to the instruction at each watering.

BEGONIAS
Margaret Lee

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH tuberous begonias for signs of mildew, correct with dust and spray.

TO CHECK cane type begonias and cut back if needed.

TO SPRAY for insects using malathion.

TO FINISH repotting where needed; use a light porous mixture.

TO FEED plants with a well-balanced all-purpose fertilizer.

TO WATER as needed—keep moist but *not wet*.

TO CHECK tuberous type for drainage; repot to larger container if needed, add fresh soil. Stake any tall stems.

BONSAI
San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc.

NOW IS THE TIME

TO DEVELOP a watering schedule, but avoid over-watering, especially the pines.

TO PRUNE all trees to promote growth and shape. Tip prune junipers and pines using finger pruning instead of cutting tools that cause brown tips.

TO SPRAY for insects as needed, using either a systemic or a mild surface insecticide.

TO SHAPE deciduous trees. Defoliate the deciduous trees in June. They may be transplanted afterwards.

TO CONTROL any mildew that may appear; use sulfur or a spray.

TO FERTILIZE trees with an organic fertilizer. Do not overfeed the pines.

TO COMPLETE the repotting of all trees that have not been repotted, except for the flowering trees that have not completed their blooming cycle.

TO PLACE trees to receive optimal sun, but do not place in full sun after 11:00 AM to prevent sunburning.

TO ROTATE trees often to maintain proper shape.

BROMELIADS
Mary Siemers

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FERTILIZE the outdoor plants during warm months only. Plants in greenhouse can be fertilized year-round.

TO USE a water-soluble fertilizer—preferably one high in acid, using only ½ the recommended strength on label.

TO CUT new offshoots to make new plants during the summer when weather is warm. Offshoots must be ⅓ to ½ the size of the mother plant.

TO KEEP plants clean at all times by cutting spent blooms and dead leaves—this helps to keep plants healthy.

TO CHECK plants for scale. If needed treat with Cygon 2-E according to directions on the bottle. If scale remains give same treatment in two weeks.

TO GIVE plants plenty of air circulation and provide humidity by watering the ground around plants.

CACTI & SUCCULENTS
Joseph Betzler

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER plants, but not too wet. When pots get noticeably light in weight, water them.

TO FERTILIZE for growth and flowering. Allow the winter growers to go dormant and rest before feeding.

TO PROTECT the plants from brilliant sun. Shade cloth can keep plants from being bleached out on very hot days.

TO CHECK any additions to your collection for insect pests. Keep them away from rest of plants. If pests or disease are noticed, treat at once.

TO REPOT those plants needing it; use a well-

draining mix, but do not overpot. A good rule of thumb is to allow an inch between plant and the pot.
TO REPOT seedlings when they have doubled or tripled in size. If they have been in the same mix for over six months, it is a good idea to repot.
TO CHECK entire collection for any pests or disease; if so, treat at once to avoid an infestation.

CAMELLIAS
E. C. Snooks

NOW IS THE TIME
TO START a feeding program when they finish blooming. Use an acid-type fertilizer: cottonseed meal, camellia food, or liquid fish.
TO BE SURE to water well the day before feeding, never fertilize a dry plant.
TO TRANSPLANT those plants that have not started their new growth.
TO REPOT those plants that have outgrown their pots. Move to one size larger pot per time.
TO MULCH plants well with redwood compost or pine needles. This helps to keep the soil uniformly moist and the weeds down.
TO PRUNE out unwanted new growth; shape and thin out center.
TO SPRAY for insects as they appear; use Cygon for looper worms and aphids. Use a miticide if mites appear later.
TO ESTABLISH and maintain a uniform watering routine. Plants should never be allowed to go dry.

DAHLIAS
Abe Janzen

NOW IS THE TIME
TO FEED with low nitrogen fertilizer (4-10-10), either dry or liquid.
TO SPRAY weekly to control insects. Guard against leaf miners, thrips, and aphids. Try a systemic; if spraying, use a weak solution on new foliage.
TO WATER when top of soil is dry; when buds are forming, soak deeply and often.
TO PLANT smaller varieties and give regular care for growing.
TO BE SURE to draw the soil up around the plants as they grow.
TO PINCH out centers of plants when two or three sets of leaves have developed.

EPIPHYLLUMS (Orchid Cactus)
Abe Janzen

NOW IS THE TIME
TO PRUNE plants to shape—take cuttings after flowering.
TO PUT out snail bait and watch for other pests.
TO REMOVE wilted flowers by cutting about ¾″ out from leaf unless you desire seed to form.
TO TAKE CARE in watering, do *NOT* allow to dry out; keep soil damp, but *NOT* wet.
TO GIVE plants a balanced feeding after blooming season.
TO STAKE long spindly growth.
TO PROTECT foliage from the hot summer sun. Maintain plants in filtered sunlight.

FERNS
San Diego Fern Socity

NOW IS THE TIME
TO REMOVE dead fronds.
TO PLANT spores.
TO USE a high-nitrogen fertilizer liquid or pellets twice a month.
TO SPRAY for aphids and scale if necessary.
TO WATER thoroughly; maintain humidity by watering surrounding areas.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES
Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME
TO IRRIGATE thoroughly as needed to maintain adequate soil moisture. Apply water around mature trees in a broad band beginning ⅓ of the distance from the trunk to the tree's dripline and extending out beyond the dripline a few feet. Apply enough water to wet the soil at least 2 feet deep (about 3 inches of water on a loam soil).
TO REMOVE grass and weeds from soil under a tree's canopy.
TO APPLY a layer of organic mulch on the soil under trees to conserve moisture. Keep mulch at least one foot away from the trunk to protect trees from crown rot. Complete thinning apples, pears and stone fruit after "June drop."
TO REMOVE any suckers growing from rootstock.
TO WASH trees periodically with a forceful spray of water to remove dust, honeydew and pests like aphids, whiteflies and spider mites.
TO SPRAY walnuts with carbaryl (Sevin) when nuts are about the size of a nickel and again three weeks later to control coddling moth larvae (wormy nuts).

FUCHSIAS
William Selby

NOW IS THE TIME
TO PINCH plants for shape and bushy growth.
TO CHANGE to 5-10-10 fertilizer to hasten maturity.
TO WATCH for insects and pests. Spray or use a systemic eradicator; use amount recommended by manufacturer or less, do *NOT* use an oil spray.

TO BE SURE to water an hour or more prior to application of an insecticide.
TO CONTROL snails, use metaldehyde or other bait according to directions.
TO KEEP plants clean of debris and spent blooms.
TO TURN baskets regularly so they do not become one-sided.
TO WATCH plants on hot or windy days. Do *NOT* allow them to dry out; keep damp but *NOT* WET.

GERANIUMS (Pelargoniums)
Carol Roller

NOW IS THE TIME
TO WATER thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow the excess water to drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible. Provide the best possible drainage for the plants, both in containers and the landscape. Watch for botrytis (gray mold) and treat it immediately.
TO CONTINUE feeding with a balanced fertilizer containing micronutrients. Dissolve in water, using less than the recommended strength. Use often enough to keep plants growing well. Long term pellets may be used instead.
TO CONTINUE pest control and disease prevention, using all products according to the manufacturer's directions.
TO SELECTIVELY prune and pinch ivies and zonals for future bloom. Avoid cutting regals and scenteds because this is their flowering season.
TO MAKE cuttings from the ivy and zonal prunings, if desired.
TO REMOVE faded flowers and old, discolored leaves.
TO ROTATE pots on a regular basis in order to produce well-shaped plants.
TO ENJOY your plants at the height of their season.

GREEN THUMB

NOW IS THE TIME
TO REMOVE dried foliage of bulbs and tie back other foliage until it dries naturally before removing.
TO FEED azaleas and cut back dead wood.
TO PLANT gladiolus bulbs for fall bloom.
TO PINCH chrysanthemums for bushier plants with more buds in the fall.
TO PLANT summer-blooming annuals: and zinnias and marigolds for late summer bloom.
TO INVEST in blooming perennials available in June: daylilies, agapanthus, Shasta daisies, etc.
TO PLANT annuals: asters, calendulas, cosmos, impatiens, pansies, petunias, snapdragons, etc.

IRIS
San Diego/Imperial County Iris Society

NOW IS THE TIME
TO ALLOW cut surfaces of the rhizomes to dry and be exposed to sunlight before planting or give a light dusting of soil sulfur. May be placed in vitamin B solution for awhile before planting.
TO HAVE beds prepared for planting and transplanting. Work in humus, soil sulfur, and some decomposed manure.
TO WATCH for aphids. May use a systemic insecticide.
TO FEED spurias with a low-nitrogen fertilizer.
TO KEEP watering all iris that are still blooming.
TO FEED Siberians after blooming with a balanced fertilizer to assure bloom for next year.
TO FEED Louisianas with a balanced food, but wait until June to dig and transplant.
TO FEED Japanese iris with camellia food; add to water in which they are growing.

NATIVES
Jeanine De Hart

NOW IS THE TIME
TO SLACK off on watering of the natives. Water the drought-tolerant natives seldom and deep.
TO REMAIN vigilant in regards to insect pests. The mealy bug destroyer will do wonders if given a chance!
TO CONTINUE visiting natural areas as different plants will be in bloom now. This is the best time to see the flowering plants in the mountains.
TO KEEP the areas weeded around the natives.
TO TAKE note of plants that you would like to add next October.
TO REMEMBER that the survival rate of the natives depends on (1) planting at the right time, in many cases fall is the only time to be successful. (2) Watering correctly, allowing the plant material to almost dry out between watering. (3) planting in an area that is well drained.

ORCHIDS
Charles Fouquette

NOW IS THE TIME
TO OBSERVE the weather—be prepared to shade areas of heavy sunlight, use shade cloth or liquid shading compound on glass or overhead.
TO MAINTAIN pest control against red spider, mealy bugs, and scale; consider getting some ladybugs or praying mantis egg cases—available at some orchid nurseries in the area.
TO AVOID sudden temperature changes or drafts around plants. Spray and mist on hot dry days; mist

seedlings and small plants—mist in the morning and afternoon, plants should be dry by nightfall.
TO REMEMBER that plants need good air circulation and proper light.

***Culture of Different Genera*:**

Cymbidium: Light to partial shade to full sun, protect flowers from sunburn. Temperature 50°–70°optimum. Humidity 40–70%. Potting media; epiphyte-tree fern, firbark, non-organic mixes or osmunda. New fertilizers have been developed and should be available.
***Cattleya, Laelia, Brassavola* and Hybrid:** Light 2400–3600 foot candles. Temperature 69°–70° optimum. Media for potting: firbark, tree fern, osmunda, gravel, perlite or charcoal. Fertilizer depends on type of media used to grow your plants.

***Phalaenopsis* and Hybrid:** Light 900–1000 foot candles. Shade to adjust and meet requirements. Temperature 65°–85°, humidity 50–75%; remember the higher the temperature, the more circulation of air is required.

***Vanda, Vandopsis, Ascocentrum, Aerides* and Hybrid:** Light 2000-3600 foot candles. Temperature 60°-70° humidity 49-75%. Potting media: tree fern, firbark, charcoal, lava rock, or a combination of these. Fertilizer depends on media used. Vandas are voracious feeders and growers when right combination is used.

ROSES
Marianne Truby

NOW IS THE TIME

TO ENCOURAGE summer roses by "dead heading", the prompt removal of flowers as soon as they begin to fade. To direct the rose to produce more flowers instead of seeds (hips).
TO CUT blooms at their peak and SHARE with friends and neighbors.
TO PROTECT the new basals that were beginning to grow during the early bloom. Avoid letting these grow into a large candelabra. Remove side buds, allowing one bloom and then cut back to an eye emanating from a high five-leaflet.
TO ENJOY this second bloom in your garden.
TO CONTINUE to maintain a well-balanced feeding program and keep ahead of the mites and mildew by washing off your bushes in early morning.
TO MAINTAIN your mulch to keep the ground moist and cool during the heat of summer.
TO TAKE every opportunity to observe new varieties in your neighborhood and in public gardens.
TO WONDER where the term "bed of roses" came from if it means a life of ease and luxury or an easy situation!

VEGETABLES
Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PLANT warm-season crops which require warm weather and soil for rapid growth: beans, corn, cucurbits (cucumber, gourd, luffa, melons, and squash), peanuts, peppers, sunflower, tomatoes and tender herbs.
TO PLANT pumpkins in late June for Halloween. Stop watering onions and garlic grown for bulbs when leaves begin to turn yellow. Dig bulbs when tops have fallen over and place in a shady, well-ventilated area to cure.
TO APPLY nitrogen fertilizer to warm-season crops to promote growth. Fertilize when: corn is 6 inches tall and 24 inches tall; cucurbits when plants begin to produce runners; eggplant, peppers and tomatoes when plants begin to bloom and again a month later; beans for a month after planting or when runners start to climb. For every 10 feet of row, apply ⅓–½ cup of ammonium sulfate or ¼–⅓ cup of ammonium nitrate alongside the row a few inches from the plants, then irrigate thoroughly.
TO CHECK plants for pests. Dust tomatoes lightly with sulfur when plants are a foot tall to control russet mites (older leaves die prematurely). Apply sulfur with a dust blower when wind is calm. Wrap paper collars around the stems of tomato transplants when planted to protect them from cutworms.

VEGETABLES, ANNUALS
from UC Cooperative Extension Publications

NOW IS ONE OF THE BETTER TIMES IN FROST-FREE AREAS

TO PUT IN TRANSPLANTS OF: eggplant, sweet potato, tomato — African daisy (*Artotis stoechadifolia),* celosia, centaurea, coreopsis, marigolds, nicotiana, petunia, salpiglossis, salvia, scabiosa, sunflower, and tithonia.
TO PUT IN SEEDS OF: beans, corn, cucumbers, endive, leaf lettuce, melons, okra, onions (green), parsley, parsnips (in May), peppers, radish, squash (winter and summer), turnips — ageratum, amaranthus, balsum, coleus, cosmos, dahlias, four o'clocks, mignonette, morning glories, nasturtiums, portulaca, strawflowers, sweet alyssum, Virginia stock (*Malcomia maritima*), and zinnias.□

ERRATUM

In "Fertilizer" by Mort Brigadier in the March-April 1996 edition, on page 52 he erroneously stated that gypsum will help lower soil pH. It does not. Gypsum contains 18% sulfate not sulfur.

WHEN IT TOOK KNOW-HOW©

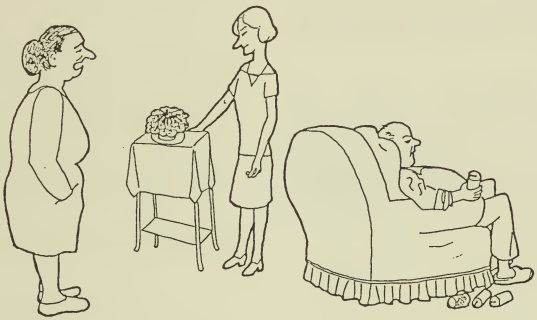
by RON SISSONS

EARLY IN MY CAREER, I realized that the apparently simple task of watering plants in containers required more than just the ability to steer a watering can spout. It had already been drummed into my allegedly thick skull that my consistent overwatering was the sign of a character weakness not fitted to the role of gardener. A concern not to overwater, led me directly into the other evil, underwatering. This, of course, was noted and acidly commented on by those on high. Under this kind of disparaging surveillance, I developed a thick hide to go along with my thick head and before too long that best of all teachers, experience, took over my decision making.

Experience taught me that a clay pot could be given a tap with the knuckles to determine the moisture content of the soil in the pot. A dull sound denoted that water was not required; a hollow sound with a ring behind it meant the pot should have been watered the day before yesterday. Experience soon attuned my ear to gradations of dryness.

With containers other than those made of clay, it was necessary to rely on a visual approach, the changing of the soil surface being the key—from the dark of adequate to the light color of dry. But even though a container soil may be dry on the surface, it may still be quite moist in the root area. However, having esoteric leaning, old hands at the hardening game had words of wisdom to pass on to acceptable newcomers about almost any situation of puzzlement to the apprentice. In this case, the rule was—"in summer, if in doubt, give it water; in winter, if in doubt, don't".

The commercial grower of potted subjects couldn't afford the time to pick and choose which pot should be watered. Tied to the limitation of watering every pot on the bench simultaneously, either by automatic system or manually by hose, a judgment had to be made on a collective basis. But even that judgment has not become necessary on most commercial operations. They have made the potting compost so open and freely drained yet retentive of moisture, they could water the plants every day without a problem.



"If you ask me,
the atmosphere around here isn't dry enough!"

When I was on the greenhouse staff in the Duke of Bedford's Woburn Abbey gardens, the commercial approach to watering pot plants would have been a boon. We had a Head Gardener who required that no plant be given water unless it was needed.

This attitude was sound and all very well, but when applied to upward of 10,000 plants in clay pots, it began to lose its meaning to the only man on the job with a watering can at the weekend. The only way he could get through the watering chore at a walking pace was with the prior cooperation of the other greenhouse personnel. We worked Saturday mornings in those days and just before quitting time the unfortunate individual scheduled for weekend duty would be tipped off what the actual watering requirements would be during the time he was responsible—all unbeknown to the Head Gardener.

The greenhouse staff members all knew how long it took the plants under their care to dry out and this knowledge was used to make the dutyman's burden tolerable instead of demoralizing. It was ensured that there would be the very minimum of pot watering over the Saturday afternoon and Sunday, although the dutyman had to go through the motions if the Head Gardener was nosing around. Activity was essential when checking the carnation greenhouses for they were overlooked by the Head Gardener's residence.

Going through the motions meant tapping every pot, and since knuckles were never designed to face such a punishing role, a small wooden mallet head mounted on a bamboo cane became an effective substitute. It did the job beautifully, and never more noisily than in the carnation greenhouses on a Sunday morning!□

Copyright 1995 by Ron Sissons, who received his horticultural training in England. He was the director of the Long Beach Department of Parks and Recreation before retiring to Chula Vista.

He is the author of the recently published book, Down to Earth, from which this article was taken. Illustrated by the author. see page 86 or page 88

MINER'S LETTUCE
(*MONTIA PERFOLIATA*)

WRITTEN and ILLUSTRATED
by VALERIE ALMOND

PURSLANE FAMILY (Portulacaceae)

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Indian lettuce

HABITAT: Throughout North America in shady, moist areas, around stream banks, etc.

FLOWERING SEASON: best collected in spring to fall. Blooms in April and May.

DESCRIPTION: Tall plant with narrow-to-rounded basal leaves. Near the top of the long stem is a saucer-shaped leaf that encircles the stem completely. Above the leaf is a small cluster of flowers (white to pink in color.

EDIBLE PARTS:
1) Roots
2) Stems
3) Leaves

PREPARATION: 1) Roots can be roasted or eaten raw.

ROASTED ROOTS

Dice roots, sprinkle with salt and roast. Cool, then place in a canister or jar. Tastes similar to roasted nuts.

2) Stems can be eaten raw (as in a salad) or cooked as a potherb. Dip raw stems into mayonnaise, vinegar, or broth.
The following seasonings can be used with cooked miner's lettuce:

Allspice	Marjoram
Basil	Nutmeg
Cinnamon	Oregano
Dill	Rosemary
Mace	Sesame Seed

3) Leaves can be eaten raw (as in a salad) or cooked as a potherb. Raw leaves are good in a sandwich. Cooked leaves can be seasoned with the above, or with vinegar.

RECIPE

Boil 6 cups of miner's lettuce leaves and stems (boil for 15 minutes) add ½ teaspoon of salt (sprinkle in with the leaves as they boil). Serve with a pat of butter and top with vinegar, sour cream, and diced ham or bacon bits.

VITAMIN/MINERAL CONTENT: The leaves are rich in vitamin C.

MEDICAL USES: Miner's lettuce helps infections. It prevented scurvy in gold miners.

MISCELLANEOUS USES: Europe now cultivates miner's lettuce to sell as a green. They call it "winter purslane."

PAST HISTORY USES: European explorers collected miner's lettuce and baled it and placed it aboard ships. Gold miners consumed it when there was no other food available to eat. Indians let red ants run over the lettuce to flavor it with formic acid, giving it a vinegary taste.

WILDLIFE USES: Dove, quail, junco, and other birds feast on the seeds. Many different animals feast on the whole plant (especially deer, elk, moose and bear).

Valerie Almond is an illustrator who has done pet portraits, wildlife illustrating, signs, logos, business card designing, and other artwork. see page 88

Book Reviews

DOWN TO EARTH

Ron Sissons

Chula Vista, 1995, 351 pages, b&w illustrations, 8½" x 11", $25 + Tax, Arboretum Press, 813 Creekwood Way, Chula Vista CA 91913

California Garden readers may remember Ron Sissons as a contributor. Several excerpts of his book have appeared in earlier issues. While many gardening books being produced today are very beautiful to look at and inspire gardeners to dream of gardens they could probably never create, much less maintain, *Down to Earth* is **not** that type of book. As its title implies, it is a book about the nitty gritty of gardening. Any gardening book which begins with and emphasizes the soil is sure to catch my attention. *Down to Earth* is described as a collection of short books on specific facets of gardening, particularly landscape gardening. Many of the chapters within these books can be read in random order.

We remember information most when we are having fun, and in this way *Down to Earth* is a real teaching tool. Many of the hand drawn illustrations are cartoons. It is a book which empowers gardeners by teaching them through stories and examples about what it really takes to make a garden. Just in case you are enjoying the book so much that you forget you are learning about a whole world of horticulture, there is even a series of multiple choice questions in the back so you can test your memory.

If the humor in the book seems somewhat British and a little wry, its author began his horticultural training at the age of fourteen in the gardens of the Duke of Newcastle. Before emigrating to the U.S.A. he had worked his way up to Head Gardener to the Duke of Devonshire. Ron Sissons' experience is not limited to the British climate; he was glasshouse manager and plant breeder for the Burpee Seed Company in Lompoc.

Upon taking a position in the Tree Farm and Street Tree division for a beach city in Southern California, he began scheduling classes after work for the low-paid unskilled gardeners and laborers to upgrade their skills and advance their positions. Notes for these classes became the basis for the book.

Now retired, Ron is a constant tinkerer and experimenter with plants. He has written, and with his delightful wife, Veronica, self-published this book in an effort to further extend to others the benefits of his knowledge and experience. It is a gift to all of us who read it from a very special, wise and witty man. This is one of the gardening books which you will keep close at hand as you wrestle to solve new and different gardening challenges.

Down to Earth was featured at the main library in San Diego in a display of books by local authors in January. You can order this book directly from the publishers.

Reviewed by Lucy Warren

BALL FLORICULTURE DICTIONARY

Veronica Hoyos de Martens & M. L. Nydia Palma de Villarreal

Batavia, Illinois, Ball Publishing, 1995, 411 pages, no photos or illustrations, 6" x 9", softcover, $69.

Contractors, landscapers, and home gardeners will now have a leg up on Spanish-speaking casual labor with the newly published English-Spanish/Spanish-English dictionary with Spanish definitions. Even those fluent in conversational Spanish may be at a loss for the name of a specific horticultural procedure, insect pest, or chemical. The Spanish definitions describe concepts, beyond just single words, to assure accurate communication. For example, alkaline soil is not only defined in its equivalent Spanish term, but is also described (in Spanish) as to its alkalinity pH and what makes it alkaline. Tables indicate equivalent temperatures in Fahrenheit and centigrade, distance, area, and measures. Common commercial flowers and foliage plants are listed in tables including the scientific name, Spanish name, English name, and plant family. Diseases and plant treatments are similarly listed for easy reference. If you could have saved only one or two costly mistakes as a result of miscommunication, you will know the true value of this book.

Reviewed by Lucy Warren

LOTUSLAND: A Photographic Odyssey

Theodore Roosevelt Gardner II

Santa Barbara, Allen A. Knoll, 1995, 144 pages, 130 color photos, 48 b&w and sepia photos, 11¼" x 9¾", hardcover, $59.50

First identified as a United States land grant in 1877, ninety-eight acres near Santa Barbara were sold and resold until their sixth owner, Ralph Kinton Stevens, sold off all but thirty-seven acres. He and his wife, Caroline, developed what was left into a famous garden, Tanglewood.

In 1941, Madame Ganna Walska bought the property. In 1946, after divorcing her sixth, and final, husband, Madame Walska made the garden the sole object of her considerable energies and fortune until her death in 1984 at the age of ninety-seven. Born Hanna Puascz in Poland, this beautiful woman became an opera singer, wowing audiences in Russia, France, and the U.S. Along the way, she married four wealthy men, including Harold McCormick, chairman of International Harvester and the owner of the Chicago Opera. The divorce agreements (her second husband died) were very profitable for Ganna. Before the fifth and sixth weddings, pre-nuptial agreements were in place.

The wonderful gardens, renamed Lotusland, are divided into specific areas, all complementing the large, soft pink home: Cacti and Succulents; Ferns, under large trees that provide deep shade; Aloes, decorated with orange and red flowers; the Blue Garden of soothing plants with bluish foliage; the Japanese Garden, inspired by *Madame Butterfly*, Walska's favorite opera; the Water Gardens of many ponds, lotuses, and fountains; Palms—"Grown so big in their dramatic bunches that their leaves are competing for . . . space in the sky."; and the rarest

gemstones of them all—Cycads—examples of nine of the total eleven genera. Madame Walska bought the entire collection of cycads with her last jewels—about a million's worth.

The photos are the book—spectacular! Some cover two pages. Others are very small but still brilliant.

Lotusland may be toured from the middle of February until the middle of November. Ten dollars per person, $8.00 for bus tours of twenty-four or more—all sold out for 1996.

Reviewed by Jane Field Alexander

TRULY TINY GARDENS

Thomasina Tarling

North Pomfret, Vt., Trafalgar Square Publishing, 1995, 96 pages, 70 color photos, 26 color drawings, 9¼" x 9¾" hardcover, $22.95

This charming volume with the delightfully alliterative title/author heading is loaded with illustrations of diminutive gardens on roofs, balconies, in passageways, down steps, and below ground level. For readers who would develop such a spot, Tarling lays down an agenda: first, thoroughly clean the area. Then make a complete plan before spending a dime.

Second, use only plants which are decorative all year long. Avoid flashes in the pan like June-blooming peonies, for instance. Regard every addition with the "eye of a future mother-in-law." It may be pretty now, but what else does it do? (The appendix contains a directory of plants suitable for small gardens, complete with sun/shade and zone symbols.)

Third, decorate with the ideal of simulating depth and/or distance by using trompe l'oeil, mirrors, white paint, curving paths, urns, pots, trellises, gates, pots on walls, rocks, tiny fountains, wall plaques, raked and patterned sand, etc. One trick: placing ornaments in tunnels of greenery. Another is to indicate a space beyond although there is none: erect a trellis through which a lane wanders.

Of practical help are the illustrated directions for building steps and decking, positioning stepping stones, making trellises, and erecting corner beds and walls.

Reviewed by Jane Field Alexander

NATIVE GARDENS FOR DRY CLIMATES

Sally Wasowski with Andy Wasnowski

New York, Clarkson Potter/Publishers, 1995, 176 pages, 215 color photos, 17 b&w illustrations, 8¾" x 11¼", hardcover, $35.00

The book *Native Gardens for Dry Climates* depicts the view of the authors on the practicality of using native plants indigenous to the areas now occupied by specific cities in the southwestern United States. The book is written in a style suitable for both professional and amateur gardeners, and provides a unique approach to encouraging the use of native plants in the landscape. The authors compare the use of too much lush verdant water-needing landscapes to the use of too much rock, gravel, concrete, etc., which cause reflected heat, and discourage the use of either extreme.

The book is divided into two parts. The first part includes: "The Envelope Garden and Plan" with a private area nearest the house with non-native plants and irrigation, a transition area as a buffer zone, and a natural area with native vegetation; "Courtyard Gardens and Plans," which combine privacy with beauty and include theme gardens such as, *curandera* garden (herbs), a moonlight garden, a thornless garden, a fragrance garden, a songbird garden, a hummingbird garden, and an outdoor garden room; and "Planting and Maintenance," which considers irrigation, spacing of plant materials, use of mulches, and the proper pruning of native plants.

The second part provides selected plant profiles with over two hundred colored photographs. These profiles include several applicable specimens each of trees, succulent accents, leafy evergreen shrubs, ground covers, perennial flowers, ephemerals, and vines. Each of the plant listings includes characteristics of 1) common name, 2) Latin name, 3) native habitat, 4) regions of use, 5) soil, 6) water, 7) sun or shade, 8) height and width, 9) protective mechanisms, such as spines or taste, 10) leaves or stems, 11) ornamental value, 12) other values, and 13) related species.

Following the descriptive plant profiles, the book provides "Indigenous Charts" for each category of plants in the selected profiles that indicate whether the plants are drought tolerant and only need water to become reestablished, or whether the plants evolved near watercourses and may need water in landscape use. These charts show the plants that evolved in areas now occupied by specific cities—including San Diego. The authors divide the southwestern climate into seven regions, including three for Southern California and four for the southwestern desert areas, based mostly on elevation, temperature, and rainfall.

The book also includes a directory of retail and wholesale nurseries for native plants and provides information on sources of native plants for many areas. Plants listed in this book are showy and reasonably easy to grow. The authors approve of mixing native plants with plants from other areas or countries, as long as they are well adapted to the site, and emphasize that a native plant garden can provide aesthetics, low maintenance, and wildlife protection.

Reviewed by Dorcas Utter

Penguin Books has recently published several softcover books at very reasonable prices. **BEST BORDERS** by Tony Lord discusses twelve specific borders from gardens or estates in England chronologically to illustrate the evolution of the border. Those interested in the many discussions of "perennial borders" will enjoy this book. First published in hardcover in 1995, it's good to have the softcover available so soon. Penguin has also republished **THE PATIO GARDEN** by Hazel Evans and **THE ROMANTIC GARDEN** by Graham Rose. These two had been published in paper before, but the quality of the color photos and illustrations is much superior to the earlier editions. Sterling Publishing Co., Inc. has issued two softcovers by Ken Preston-Mafham: **CACTI AND SUCCULENTS IN HABITAT** (Reviewed in *California Garden* May-June 1995) and **CACTI: THE ILLUSTRATED DICTIONARY** with more than 1,100 color photos of species and varities of globular cacti. This was last published in hardcover in 1993. The latest edition, 1996, of Patrick Taylor's **GARDENER'S GUIDE TO BRITAIN** is now available from Timber Press. Each of these books is priced at $19.95, making each of them a real bargain. Slightly higher, $22.95, is the **DICTIONARY OF HORTICULTURE** compiled by the National Gardening Association, originally published in 1994, and reviewed in the July-August issue of *California Garden*.

Reviewed by R. Cox

COMMUNICATIONS . . .

WE WELCOME LETTERS PERTAINING TO GARDENS!

As some of you know, we are sending out surveys with our renewal notices. If you are not due a renewal notice this year, and would like to participate in the survey, let us know.

We have printed all the additional comments received, but in future issues we think we will have to ***limit the number of rave reviews included****, wonderful as they are to receive.*

SOME RESPONSES RECEIVED:

What are local commercial flower/vegi/herb operations up to? What can a small market garden do in the area to grow Market Crops? Thanks! Great Publication!

JB — *Valley Center*

I enjoy the *California Garden* very much. You folks do a fine job.

JKB — *El Cajon*

Particular interests are: abutilon, citrus, cryptanthus

Mr. & Mrs. HB — *Lemon Grove*

Magazine is great

GB — *San Diego*

A very helpful magazine. Thanks

JB — *Del Mar*

I am a retiree and live north of San Diego but the climate is much like yours. Of all the gardening literature I get, yours has the most practical info for So. Calif. I've been housebound for several months because of hip surgery, but reading about gardens & watching my plants grow—indoors & outdoors—is very uplifting. My husband and I are especially interested in container plants. Keep up the good work.

JB — *Hermosa Beach*

I wish I lived closer to take advantage of your classes. I like your magazine.

MB — *Fallbrook*

Think your magazine is the best!

VB — *Lakeside*

Your magazine is the best bargain on the market! I immediately read it cover to cover then keep it folded to "Now Is the Time" for the whole month. If I have any suggestions at all for change it would be to include a wee bit more coverage on local gardens and gardeners—and how about an article on planter mixes for various plants? Could we take just a basic mix (i.e. Unigro) and add a handful of this and a pinch of that to customize it for individual plants? Thanks!

CBC — *Chula Vista*

1. An even more complete calendar might be a possibility. 2. More local garden tours. 3. An emphasis on dedicated nonprofessional gardeners is appreciated. S. D. Hort. Soc. is more for those in business. 4. Meetings, events, etc. in North County.

VC — *Vista*

[Ed. note; It is our policy to list only events sponsored by nonprofit organizations and government entities. Generally, we leave it to event sponsor to inform us. Meetings are listed on "Affiliate" pages. Get more clubs to join us!]

Bamboo is neglected. Please add it to "Now Is the Time". Also, please list American Bamboo Society events. Also, how about features/interviews with members about their gardens?

JC — *Los Angeles*

[Ed. note; We would be happy to add a bamboo section to "Now Is the Time." Finding someone who is willing to write is the problem. As indicated in previous note, we need to be informed of events.]

I enjoy *everything* in your magazine! Thank you.

MC — *city unknown*

This is a great magazine. Keep up the good work.

JD — *Solana Beach*

Good magazine

LD — *Rohnert Park*

Because of my age (82) I have been overdoing my garden. (*Need*) less bending and easier watering. More interest now in container plants. Easier to take care of. Have very much enjoyed your magazine. Got rid of all my Michigan garden books. Entirely different here. Thank you.

BE — *El Cajon*

Congratulations—best local gardening (publication) information available. Keep up the good work!

BF — *Chula Vista*

I would like to see more about California Native vegetation and about growing natives.

MJG-G — *Spring Valley*

I read it from cover to cover!

MG — *San Diego*

I find your magazine is very good. I enjoy it and read it from cover to cover.

R&MG — *Solana Beach*

Excellent Publication—as it pertains to San Diego County information is most helpful.

HH — *El Cajon*

We love every issue of *California Garden*.

JH — *San Clemente*

I have truly enjoyed your *California Garden* magazine!

CH — *El Cajon*

Enjoy it *very* much!

NH — *Chula Vista*

I think *California Garden* is excellent. Articles on Flower and on Butterfly Gardening are my major interests. Thank you very much.

KH — *city unknown*

I love this little magazine — Thank you!

B&RK — *Santa Barbara*

More illustrations (drawings) would be great! Line drawings would be best for clarity.

KGA — *El Cajon*

I particularly have enjoyed the garden tours, info on gardens in the area.

J&CL — *Escondido*

Horticultural Calendar is why I continue to be a member. Garden Trips is my second reason.

DN — *San Diego*

"Now Is the Time" is my favorite part of the magazine.

Mr. & Mrs. RP — *San Diego*

(1) An occasional "write-up" re a particularly "special" bus trip/visit, that is—*after the fact*: a review, *if* you want more attendance at these functions (2) Could you afford a color cover sheet? at Holidays or springtime?

DP — *San Diego*

[Ed. note; There has been some discussion of sponsorship of a color cover for a special event next year. Otherwise, our Board of Directors seems to favor black and white.]

I'm not a great gardener. I just enjoy watching things grow from seed; flowers develop from buds, etc. Therefore, anything you write, I read. Sometimes I even remember what I have read and put it to good use. Thank you all. I enjoy your magazine.

IS — *San Diego*

Stay eclectic.

DvK — *San Diego*

I love the magazine—"If it ain't broke, don't fix it." Love to all.

MW — *San Diego*

We request comments from readers who feel that we have provided incorrect information. The goal is to give readers the best gardening knowledge available.

ADDRESSES

(cover) **Constance Cole** is an x-ray technician and a commercial photographer. A California native, at the age of eighty-something, drawing has been a hobby for many years. She recently had a book of *Rhipsalis* drawings published. The price is approximately $10. Profits will be donated to Dr. Alfred Lau's research on epiphytic plants. For further information, contact her at 25526 Alliene Ave., Lomita CA 90717.

(page 84) ***Down to Earth*** by Ron Sissons can be obtained for $25 + tax from Arboretum Press, 813 Creekwood Way, Chula Vista CA 91913

(page 85) V. Almond, tel 503\775-8721
Nature's Creation Art Studio
9821 SE Bell Ave., Portland OR 97222

Gleanings . . .

WILDLIFE IN THE GARDEN. . .

As open space becomes scarce, home gardeners are becoming more interested in aiding wild creatures to continue to exist. Food and water are of vital importance. A few homeowners near canyons have wild foxes and skunks that come to eat fruit and pet food (if it is left outdoors), but almost every neighborhood has birds.

We don't always have fruit and berries in our garden but for year-round there are many types of bird-feeders. Most grocery stores sell wild bird seed. Sunflower seeds are important because they are an excellent source of protein. As an added bonus, many of the birds will search out insects. We find that fly, ant, aphid, sow bug, mosquito and spider colonies are kept down by the birds that come to our feeder and then explore the rest of the garden. Feeders must be protected. We hang ours under branches—this protects the little birds from predator hawks and owls. We fill the feeder every morning and if we forget or are late the birds perch near the feeder and really make a lot of noise to attract us. We feed jays peanuts and they knock on the windows to get our attention. One goes out looking for my husband on his walk and follows him home—screeching all the way.

Not only do birds need water to drink, they need it two to three inches deep to bathe. Once the birds determine that your garden is safe, they'll bring the babies to teach them to fly and to bathe. Be sure to keep the water containers clean.

Lizards are wonderful for the garden - they are notoriously insectivorous. They need rocky places to hide and water to drink. I'm sure the California lizards that look very much like rattlesnakes that I have in my garden are the descendants of the original ones my dog caught the day we purchased our house. Part of its tail came off. (They do grow new tails in time.) Every year new babies sun on the back porch and often explore inside. We can usually catch them in a towel and dump them outside. I don't mind the tiny 2-3 inch ones, it's just the big ones that give me a scare until I see the legs.

GARDEN FABRICS . . .

There are garden fabrics for your plants. The newest ones are called floating row covers, They are gauze-like and are made of spun-bonded polypropylene, polyester, or other plastics. This fabric can raise temperatures by 10 degrees or more and can exclude tiny pests like aphids or flea beetles. It also discourage slugs and snails. It transmits almost all of the sunlight, can be laid directly on top of plants, and you can water right through it. The plants lift the fabric as they grow. It is best to use the fabric in late fall, winter, and early spring here, as temperatures can get very high under them and "cook" the plants. The fabric will last for several years and can be reused.

Shade cloth has been available for many years, but it has been improved. It is stronger, lasts longer and comes in many more densities from light to heavy. Some are finding that they can grow the cool weather crops like lettuce in the summer under a 47% cloth. Shade-loving ornamentals that do not do well in our bright sunlight grow beautifully under the heavier densities. These must be carried on supports above the plants. Some umbrellas are made of the cloth for use on terraces and decks where temporary shade is needed.

Bird netting has been draped over trees and vines to protect the fruit from birds and other pests for decades. It's now made of nylon. New uses are being found all the time. It can be draped over strawberry plants and placed over newly planted beds to protect them from cats that use the beds in preference to a litter box.

APHIDS . . .

If it looks and acts like an aphid, it probably is an aphid. This tiny insect is one of the peskiest in our gardens. They can be black, grey, brown, red, pink, lavender, or yellow. One gardener will complain about the red aphids on the roses, another about the yellow ones on their chayote vines, and another about the brown ones on their trees. All are hated by gardeners and loved by ants that feed on the honeydew, the sugary, sticky liquid excreted from the anus. Anyone with a bad infestation on plant stems or under the leaves will soon notice black fungus that grows on the surface of dried honeydew. It's time for a spraying with insecticidal soap or, if you are really ambitious and the infestation is small, you can wipe the infected surfaces with dilute rubbing alcohol.

NEW IN CALIFORNIA . . .

The California Garden and Landscape History Society has been formed to become a central repository for information and to encourage the study and enjoyment of the historic gardens and landscape history of California. Plans include: meetings in various parts of the state, tours of historical gardens, the publishing of articles and research in a journal, fostering research into garden history. For information contact the society P.O.Box 1338, Sebastopol CA 95473-1338 or call Lucy Warren at 619-295-0342. □

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

Garden Center and Library - Founded in 1907

Casa del Prado Room 105 San Diego CA 92101-1619

619/232-5762

Under the sponsorship of the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, California

GENERAL MEETINGS
1996
June 18,
October 15
5:45 p.m.
Casa del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park, San Diego

OFFICERS

President
Marianne Truby
First Vice President
Kathy Walsh
Second Vice President
Gerry Hoffner
Treasurer
Jean E. Johns
Recording Secretary
Esther Barksdale
Corresponding Secretary
Dorothy Driscoll
Parliamentarian
Nancy Cottingham
Historian
Barbara Jones

DIRECTORS

Term 1993-1996
Janet Hansen
Robert Horwitz
Nancy Cottingham
Term 1994-1997
Mary Jordan
William J. White
Jacqueline Coleman
Term 1995-1998
Paulette Tansey
Frances Walton
Mike Whitney
Honorary Board Member
Donald Boyer
Arrangers Guild
Myrna Hines

All area codes are 619 unless otherwise noted.

AFFILIATES:

CITY BEAUTIFUL OF SAN DIEGO
In Memory of Ruth Smith
Pres: Mary Vaughn 234-9856

DEL MAR FAIR FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW
The West Coast's Best 792-4273
June 18 through July 7, 1996

PALOMAR DISTRICT
CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
Dir: Marty Peterson 743-3832

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S HORTICULTURE AND LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION (PWHLA)
Pres: Cindy Benoit 436-9505
Last Tue - Sep/Nov/Feb/Apr
6:30 pm, Casa del Prado

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS FOUNDATION, INC
Pres: Joyce Wilder 436-3036

SAN DIEGO BOTANICAL GARDEN FOUNDATION
President
2125 Park Blvd.
San Diego CA 92101-4792

SOUTHWESTERN JUDGES COUNCIL
Chr: Barbara Stevens 940-0902
1st Wed - 10:00 am, Casa del Prado

GARDEN CLUBS:

ALPINE GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Carlette Anderson 445-4569
1st Fri - 10:00 am, Home of Members

BERNARDO GARDENER'S CLUB
Mrs. Maxine Schimmel 451-3482
3rd Thu - 1:30 pm, Joslyn Senior Center, Rancho Bernardo

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Norma Illingworth 479-3478
2nd Wed - 9:30 am, Rohr Park Manor, Sweetwater Road

BRIDGE AND BAY GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Than Craddock 435-4236
4th Monday - 9:30 am, Winn Room, Coronado Public Library

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Mrs. Theodore Felber 427-3184
3rd Thu - 1:00 pm, Norman Park Senior Center

CONVAIR GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Virginia Soderberg 582-7098
1st Wed - 7:00 pm, Home of Members

CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
Pres: Mr. David E. Sigsworth 435-5028

CROWN GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Mrs. Robert Sheridan 435-1938
4th Thu - 9:30 am, Coronado Library

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Sarah Beers 749-2140
2nd Tue - 12:30 pm, Valley Center Com. Hall

ESCONDIDO GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Josephine Killingsworth 598-7157

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Betty Henry 731-0706

FLEURS DE LEAGUE GARDEN CLUB
Chrm: Mrs. Angela Talbot 454-9200
2nd Mon - 10:30 am, Home of Members

GROSSMONT GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Mrs. Dolores Smith 464-2457
2nd Mon - 9:30 am, 4975 Memorial Drive, La Mesa

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Mrs. Francis S. Blankenship 454-4109
3rd Tue - 1:30 pm, L.J.Lutheran Church

LAKESIDE GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Mildred Digenan 443-1529
3rd Mon - 2:00 pm, Lakeside Historical Church, 9906 Maine Avenue

LAS JARDINERAS
Pres: Mrs. Gretchen Allen 222-3643
3rd Mon - 10:30 am, Home of Members

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY
Pres: Mr. Patrick Shields 724-3749
4th Sat - 1:00 pm, MiraCosta Community College, Horticulture Building #T-700

MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB
Pres: Renate Ritter 945-1287
3rd Sat - 1:00 pm, MiraCosta Community College, Horticulture Building #T8

PACIFIC BEACH GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Mrs. Dale S. Munda 272-9727
2nd Mon - 1:00 pm, Recreation Center

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Elaine Marshall 223-8708
2nd Wed - 10:00 am, Westminster Presby Church

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Lou Ann Unger 788-1393

RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Mr. Harold Sexton 756-1554
Hort Chrm: Mrs. Carol Streeter
2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Garden Club

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Dorothy Driscoll 463-6700
4th Tue - 9:30 am, Home of Members

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Mary Netusil 753-1044
4th Wed - 9:30 am, Quail Bot. Gardens

SCRIPPS MESA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Cindy Drake 271-8933
4th Mon - 6:00 pm, Scripps Ranch Library

THE VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA
Pres: Donna Derrick 223-0350
4th Thu - 10:00 am, Torrey Pines Christian Church, LJ

THE VISTA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Betty Larson 727-0731
1st Fri - 12:00 pm, Vista Senior Center

IKEBANA SCHOOLS

ICHIYO SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Pres: Haruko Crawford 660-2046

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119
Pres: Yoshie Sesma 279-2511
4th Wed - 10:00 am, Casa del Prado

IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO
Pres: Mrs. Charles Oehler 278-5689

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
LA JOLLA CHAPTER
Pres: Connie Davis 672-0128
2nd Tues - 10:00 am

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Pres: Mrs. Walter Bourland 276-4667

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
SAN DIEGO BRANCH
Pres: Mrs. Leroy Lahey 429-6198

PLANT SOCIETIES:

AFRICAN VIOLETS

HEARTLAND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Pres: Claire Peck 561-2280
3rd Tue - 7:00 pm, Wells Park Ctr,El Cajon

SAN DIEGO DAYTIME AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Pres: Pat Goldberg 462-4771
2nd Mon - 1:00 pm, Christ United Methodist Church, 33rd Street and Meade

BEGONIA

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Eileen Clause 459-4706
2nd Tue - 10:30 am, Home of Members

PALOMAR BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Ingaborg Foo 724-4871

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Mrs. Eleanor Calkins 746-4743
Last Sat - 10:30 am, Home of Members

BONSAI

HON NON BO ASSOCIATION
Pres. Lit Phan
1st Sun every other month (begin Feb)
10:30 am, Casa del Prado

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.
Pres: Lew Buller 576-0515
2nd Sun - 11:00 am, Casa del Prado

BROMELIAD

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK
Pres: Ken Campo 232-6761
2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
Pres: Joyce Brehm 277-1030
4th Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

CACTUS & SUCCULENT

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
Pres: Ronald A. Chisum 753-3651
4th Sat - 12:45 pm, Joslyn Sr Ctr, Escondido

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
Pres: Mr. Joseph Betzler 239-0804
2nd Sat - 1:00 pm, Casa del Prado

CAMELLIA

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
Pres: Dean Turney 299-5418
3rd Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

DAHLIA

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY
Pres: Ruth Kern 223-6000
4th Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

EPIPHYLLUM

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY
Pres: Phil Peck 491-9495
2nd Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

FERN

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY
Pres: Donald Callard 792-5662
3rd Thu - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

FRUIT

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS
Pres: Saul Goldstein 427-7775
4th Thu - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

FUCHSIA & SHADE PLANTS

SAN DIEGO FUCHSIA AND SHADE PLANT SOCIETY
Pres: Richard Hubbell 443-3706
2nd Mon - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado

GERANIUM

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY
Pres: Cynthia Pardoe 442-1944
2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

HEMEROCALLIS

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY
Pres: Nancy Webb
1st Sat - 10:00 am, Quail Gardens

HERB

THE HERB CLUB
Pres: Judy Dunning 669-0222
1st Thu - 7:00 pm, Call for location

HOYA

SAN DIEGO HOYA GROUP
c/o: Harriette Schapiro 273-4267
North County 432-8640

IRIS

SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY
Pres: George Bange 571-1154
2nd Sun - 1:00 pm - Jan/Mar/May
Jun/Aug/Nov - Joslyn Sr Ctr, Rancho Bernardo

IVY

THE AMERICAN IVY SOCIETY SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Pres: Johnny Stellini 233-4339
1st Mon - Casa del Prado

NATIVE PLANTS

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Pres: Bertha McKinley 685-7321
3rd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB
Pres: Dorothy Frisbie 741-0829
4th Mon - 2:00 pm - 16789 Bernardo Oaks Dr., Seven Oaks Community Center, RB

ORCHID

CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC. SAN DIEGO COUNTY BRANCH
Pres: Ardell Marlin 753-6952
3rd Wed - 7:00 pm, Carlsbad Woman's Club

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY
Pres: Fred Weber 583-3992
1st Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

ORGANIC

BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Suzanne M. Mathews 426-3936
3rd Tue - 7:00 pm, Bonita Valley Baptist Church

PALM

THE INTERNATIONAL PALM SOCIETY SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER
Pres: Phil Bergman 291-4605
Please call for Meeting dates

ROSE

EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY
Pres: Rita Applegate 670-0644
1st Sun - 2:00 pm, Gardens of Members

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY
Pres: Phil Ash 235-0004
3rd Mon - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

TREES

PEOPLE FOR TREES
Pres: Tom Story 234-8733

WATER GARDEN

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY
Contact: Walter Pagels 582-5408

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES:

CLASSIC GARDENS 459-0316
P. O. Box 2711
La Jolla CA 92038-2711

THE BOTANIC GARDEN OF SAN DIEGO
Pres: Rudy Cesena 566-7557
P. O. Box 26729
San Diego CA 92196-0729

AFFILIATES:

Send changes to: Lynn Beyerle, Affiliates Editor *California Garden*, Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park, San Diego CA 92101-1619. Call 232-5762. Deadline for Jul-Aug issue: May 15, 1996.

Attention Affiliates . . .

Are you aware that each affiliate group is entitled to a free 2¼ column inch advertisement once each year?

The Herb Club &
Chamise Creek Country Gardens
"Herbal Workshop in Ramona"
June 1, 1996
9:30 AM — 4:30 PM
Reservations Required—Request Directions
789-8940 463-7819

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
22nd FLOWER SHOW
MAY 24-25, 1996
Poway Community Center
13094 Bowron Road
Free
Friday 2-5 PM Saturday 11 AM-4PM

Alstroemeria meyer hybrid

(ALSTOMERIA IN GARDENS, continued from page 76)

Experience and Fred Meyer tell us:

Alstroemerias will grow in sun or shade (shade in the interior).

Rather remarkedly, they bloom in late spring for several months and again in fall. Some retain foliage through summer and continue blooming.

To extend bloom over summer, fertilize. "Feed. Use nitrate," says Meyer. "If they yellow, give chelated iron or use an acid fertilizer."

To get flowers over a longer period, trim off dead flower heads. If left on the plant, these will develop seeds.

You may harvest and plant the seeds and see what color variations the next generation shows.

When a stem finishes blooming and yellows, rip it out of the ground.

Mulch heavily.

A. species Brasil

Home gardeners take what we are offered. Meyer and his assistants have in recent years developed a wide spectrum of other hybrid alstroemerias. We gardeners can hardly wait for them to become available here. □

Betty Newton teaches gardening classes at Grossmont Adult Schools and writes for the Sunday ***San Diego Union-Tribune.***

Photographs by Fred Meyer

"FAR-OUT, FURRY, AND FAMILY FUN" 1996 DEL MAR FAIR JUNE 18 — JULY 7

COME SEE THE FAMOUS GARDEN SHOW

CHANGES:

It will be open until 10:00 PM, 11:00 PM on the weekends.

There will be an expanded flower show area and the number of patio gardens has grown from ten to eighteen.

For the second year, there will be a competition for floral designers who might want to qualify for the state competition by winning first place at Del Mar. (June 30th.)

There will be three main areas in the O'Brien Pavilion and Master Gardeners will be there to give advice, Professional Tree Care people will talk about planting, growing and pruning, and San Diego Floral Association and affiliates will be there with a different plant to discuss each day. Check the program if you have a particular plant interest.

Due to requests, there will be more orchid entries than in previous years. There will be judging of plants, not just blooms.

SPECIALTY PLANT DAYS

Monday	June 24	July 1	Ivy & Exotic Plants
Tuesday	June 18, 25	July 2	Geraniums & Dahlias
Wednesday	June 19, 26	July 3	Camellias
Thursday	June 20, 27	July 4	Ferns & Hoyas
Friday	June 21, 28	July 5	Roses
Saturday	June 22, 29	July 6	Orchids
Sunday	June 23, 30	July 7	Bromeliads

(QUEST FOR THE PRIZE, continued from page 74)

best, and was happy for having done the process. Nonetheless, I still harbored a small hope that maybe I would get at least an "Honorable Mention" for my effort.

In September, I received a letter from T&M, and my first thought was that it was good of them to return my pictures, and acknowledge my entry. I had to read the letter twice to believe my eyes, "Congratulations! Based on such criteria as balance, harmony, plant health, and original use of plant material, our judges have chosen your basket as the best of all entries." I was shocked! I walked around for days like Sally Field on Oscar night, "They like me. They really like me." I knew I had been very pleased with the finished basket I had created, but I hadn't seriously considered that I would actually win. I had imagined that someone with a greenhouse, and maybe professional experience would take the prize. Winning this competition was particularly touching to me because I possess neither. Also, I had been told as a child that I lacked artistic talent, and as I did not paint, draw, or write well, I believed it. Clearly, the naysayers were wrong. I was just a late bloomer, and having discovered my palette, I'll take flowers over paint any day!□

[Editor's note: The translation from a color photograph of the shaded basket unfortunately does not do justice in black and white to Kerry Zerr's artistry.]

(LATE TOMATO PLANTING, continued from page 79)

fruits. DON'T prune the tomato. Snails and slugs are often a problem with new transplants. A 6" high cage made out of a paper milk carton can discourage them. It's easily removed when the plant is stronger. There are many parasite-resistant varieties available. Look for varieties that have a V, F, and N on the label: V=verticillium, F=fusarium wilt fungus, N=root-knot nematodes. As the vines grow they should be supported. Wire cages are very popular, but some vigorous plants need bigger supports. Soft strips of cloth work very well to tie the plants to the support.

PLANTS & PLANTING

Transplants are the favorite method of obtaining plants for the home gardener. Ask your nurseryman which variety does best in your area. There are varieties that have been developed for this area. Look for labels with V,F,N. Some varieties bear small fruit, some varieties have huge fruit, a pound or more in size. Usually the tiny-fruit varieties will last longer and have larger plants. Most plants bear from two to three months but some of the small-fruit varieties in protected spots will bear into the fall months. Don't purchase plants that are already flowering. Get young healthy ones. When you put them into the ground, plant them one to two inches lower in the ground than they are in the container. This will help to keep the plant erect and roots will develop from the part of the stem below the surface. It is difficult to know the number of varieties available locally, but there are over three hundred known varieties of tomatoes.

JULY PLANTING

In many areas of San Diego tomatoes can be planted as late as July for fall fruit.

HARVESTING

Nothing tastes better than a fresh off the vine tomato. That's why we grow them. If possible, do not store tomatoes in the refrigerator because the taste declines rapidly. Ripe tomatoes will keep several days in a cool, not cold, area. In October the fruit may not completely ripen on the vine, but if picked when it first begins to show color, a tomato will ripen beautifully on a warm kitchen window sill (out of the direct sun). When a vine begins to die, all the remaining fruit should be picked and placed in a warm place. It is surprising how many will ripen in a week or two.□

Photo courtesy of the Calif. Association of Nurserymen

Propagation Secrets for California Native Plants

Now in its 3rd printing and available
from Jeanine De Hart,
237 Seeman Drive, Encinitas CA 92024
$6.10, which includes tax and shipping.
Books are shipped within 24 hours

DAYLILIES OF TOMORROW

featuring
our own new hybrids

Visit one of the finest Daylily
collections in Southern California

CREATE YOUR OWN
TROPICAL LOOKING GARDEN

Easy care, full range of color. Blooms May thru December.
(can also be grown in containers)

DON & MARY HARDGROVE
1656 N. Second St. (between Greenfield & Pepper Dr.) El Cajon • 447-4922
Open Tuesday-Sunday • 10 am-5 pm

Antonelli Brothers

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS
2545 Capitola Road
Santa Cruz, California 95062

18-page Catalog $1.00

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY

3642 Enterprise Street
San Diego, CA 92110

OPEN 7 DAYS
A WEEK

8:00 A.M. TO
5:00 P.M.

(619) 224-8271

FREE GARDEN CLASSES
9:00 A.M. SATURDAY MORNINGS

R. Barry Lewis

Computer Systems Analyst
Custom Programming, Installations,
Training and Consulting
(619) 540-4139

PLANT YOUR SPIRIT ❖ CULTIVATE YOUR WISDOM

with an original

SHASTA GARDEN POLE

These distinctive hand crafted
all-season landscape sculptures are
an attractive expression of the joy
you receive from gardening.

INSCRIPTIONS:
KEEP EARTH GREEN
LIFE BEGINS IN A GARDEN
BLESS THIS GARDEN
THE RITES OF SPRING

All poles are crafted from durable
incense cedar and protected with a
weather resistant finish that
enhances the wood grain.

3 foot - $95
6 foot - $150

plus $9 shipping each pole
CA residents add 7.25% tax
Visa / MasterCard / Check

To order,
or for a catalogue
of all our Pole themes:

(916) 926-5966
fax (916) 926-5968

SHASTA SPIRIT POLES
P.O. Box 1120
Mt. Shasta, CA 96067

CUSTOM ORDERS ACCEPTED

In Harmony Herbs & Spices

4808 Santa Monica Avenue
Ocean Beach, CA 92107
(619) 223-8051

Dried Botanicals • Potpourri
Tinctures • Aromatherapy Oils
Books • Herb Plants • Wreaths

Coastal Sage Gardening

John Noble • 223-5229

Native Plant Resource
Drip Irrigation • Herb Gardens
Organic Fruits & Vegetables
Rototilling • Compost Systems

Wild Sage Herb Ranch

15255 Lyons Valley Road, Jamul, CA

Upcoming Events

Plant Sale May 4, 1996 10:00 - 4:00

Afternoon Teas $17.
May 12 and June 9, 1996 2:00 - 4:00
come relax in our back country tea house
and we'll talk about herbs

A Day at the Wild Sage Herb Ranch $55.
May 18, 1996 9:30 - 2:30
we'll make a scented water, a cream perfume,
have a herbal footbath, make potpourri, and
more, plus a herb walk and herbal tea

Tussie Mussie Workshop $30.
June 15, 1996 9:30 - 11:30
we'll make a tussie mussie and learn the
meaning behind the flowers used in these
beautiful Victorian keepsakes

call Judy @ (619) 669-0222
for more info

You are Invited to Subscribe to ...

California GARDEN

The PERFECT gift to a friend, relative or neighbor!

1 Year Subscription	$7.00
2 Year Subscription	$13.00

or become a Member of -
SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP $10.00
(Includes magazine, newsletter, botanical library, and member discounts to events, trips and classes)

(Please PRINT)
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State ____ ZIP _____
Phone (_____)_____

San Diego Floral Association
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA 92101-1619
(Add $6.00 per year for postage to foreign destinations)

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

NOW is the time to join! Learn how easy and fun it is to grow orchids. Meet the experts through society activities including lectures, tours, open houses, and classes.

The society meets the first Tuesday of every month at Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Cultural classes start at 6:30 p.m. in the library, followed by the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. in room 101. Refreshments, orchid display, and an orchid raffle follow the meeting.

All this and a great monthly newsletter for only $7.50 (single membership) or $10.00 (dual membership) per year. Don't delay, make your check out today to the SDCOS and mail to:

Vivian Follmer
SDCOS Membership
13127 Roundup
San Diego, CA 92129
(619) 538-6187

CALIFORNIA GARDEN (USPS 084-020)
San Diego Floral Association, Inc.
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
San Diego, CA 92101-1619, USA

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE

Advantages of Establishing a Natural Kelp & Saponin Organic Landscape

Organic landscapes provide significant savings overall (up to 90%), because Natural Kelp and Saponin landscapes cost little more to install than the chemically maintained landscapes created by most commercial developers using inferior, wood shaving "composts." After the second and third years, organic landscapes and gardens start to pay for themselves in water and chemical savings.

Safe
Effective
Affordable
Sustainable

- ☑ Water savings: 90%+ over all wood-product landscapes;
- ☑ Elimination of toxic and hazardous chemical fertilizers forever;
- ☑ Savings of over 90% on sewer bills;
- ☑ Stress resistant: stronger, healthier plants are resistant to heat, cold, pests and diseases;
- ☑ Elimination of compacted soils;
- ☑ Organic landscapes treat the soil permanently and require very little costly maintenance;
- ☑ Organic landscapes are safe for children, pets and God's good worms;
- ☑ Organic gardens, farms & groves produce abundant food with flavor;
- ☑ Organic soils are healthy, fertile and abounding with life;

Wholesale to the Public • By the Bag or the Truckload

Call or write today for a FREE consultation, information and field testing: 619/239-KELP

THE AMERICAN KELP CORPORATION

We use only Non-Toxic, Organic Products

***WORLD LEADER** in the development of organic growth stimulant products*

For FREE INFORMATION on how you can start or rejuvenate your Organic Garden, Farm, Grove or Landscape, complete and return this form today. Our team of organic professionals is ready to help!

RETURN COUPON TO

The American Kelp Corporation
PO Box 370178
San Diego, California 92137-0178

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ *Zip* _____
Telephone _____
I Grow _____ *Age* _____